

SkateBoarder

A SURFER PUBLICATION

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VOL. 6, NO. 3 OCTOBER 1979 \$1.50



Steve Alba

Anatomy of the Sport's
Winningest Vertical Skater

Europe's New Skate Frontier

On Tour with the King

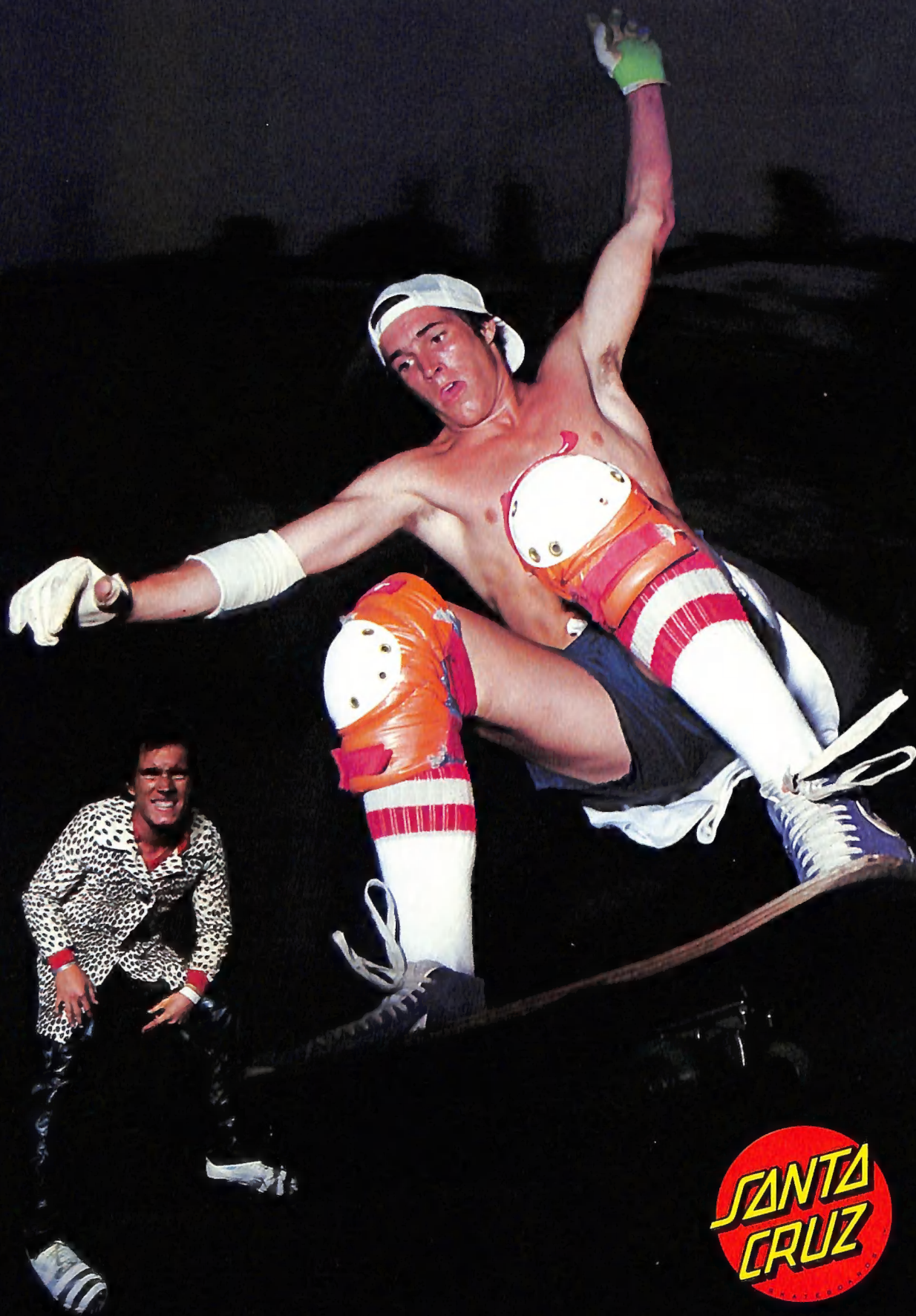
Ripping in the Rockies

Hester #2 Comes to Boulder

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Rock 'n Roll Board Slides,
Aerial Berts, and More!





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INDEPENDENT


88 mm

109 mm

121 mm

131 mm

151 mm 

169 mm 

GRINDMASTER DEVICE



FEATURING:

169 mm

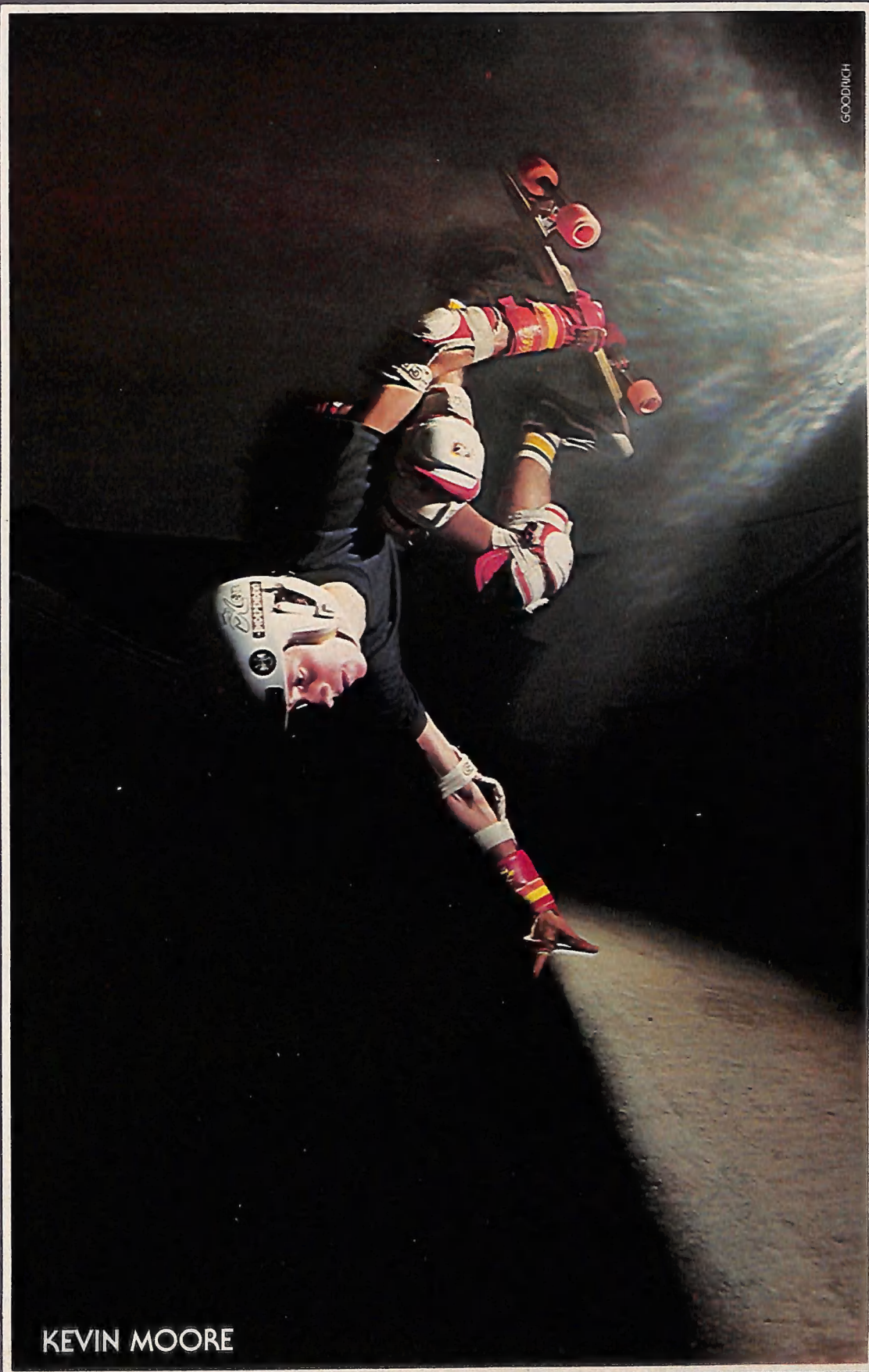
**FASTER
ACTION**

**LIGHT
WEIGHT**

**LESS
KING PIN
BOLT DRAG**

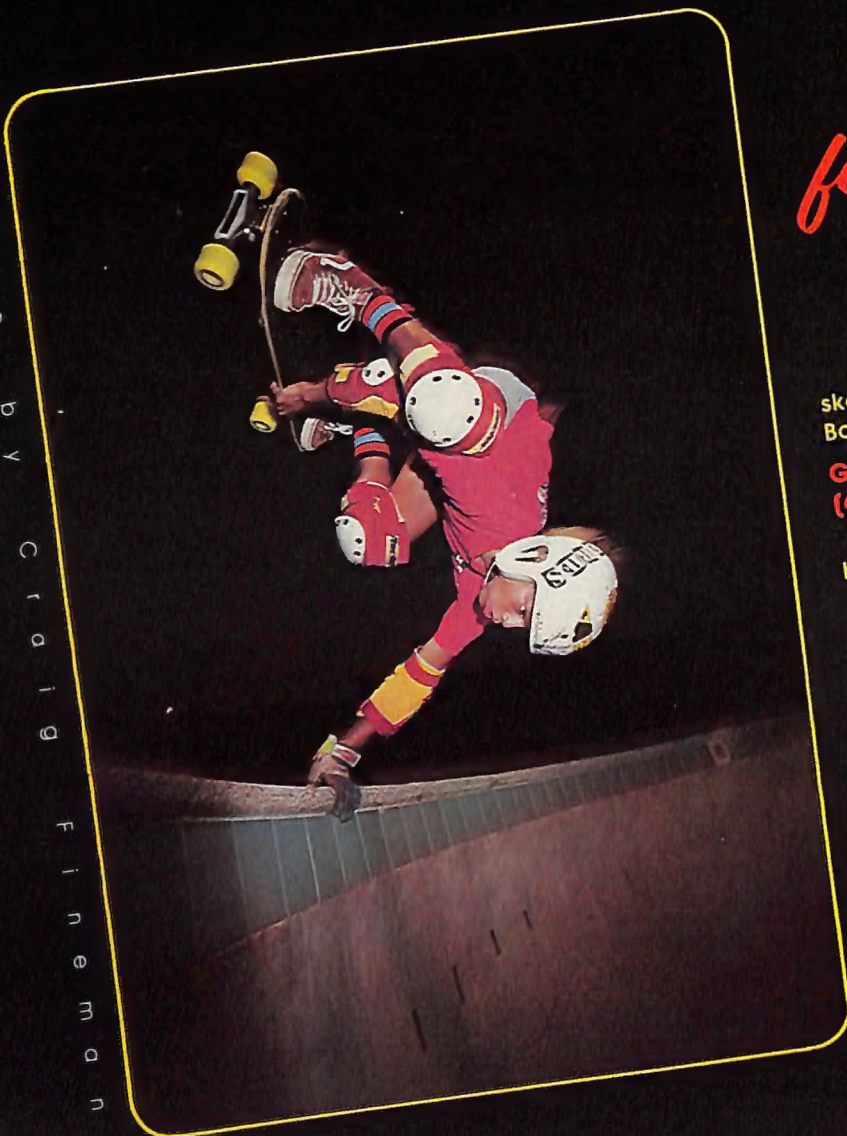


KEVIN MOORE



GOODMICH

photo by CRIG FINEMAN



Landing Gear for the Bones Brigade

Top competitor in this year's Hester Series, RAY "BONES" RODRIGUEZ, skates on his own model board from Powell, with Bones wheels (of course), and Tracker's new

GNARLY SIXTRACKS—ST-1500 (6" between wheels)

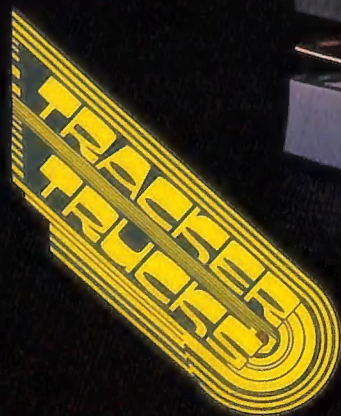
When describing trucks, axle length alone can be misleading, so Tracker chose to measure the width of the axle casting itself, which is between the wheels.

If you're real observant, you'll notice that, unlike the other Tracker models, the triangular face of the SIXTRACK doesn't extend to the ends of the axle casting. You'll also notice that the ends of the axle casting are tapered. These subtle changes make it possible to use inset and center bearing wheels, as well as functioning beautifully with Copers.

The SIXTRACK's unique geometry offers the smooth and dependable Tracker feel, but we've made it quicker and even more responsive, with an increased turning ability.

Best of all, the SIXTRACK barely weighs more than the EXTRACK (Tracker's 5" model). We have carefully slimmed the castings down, watching to preserve the STRENGTH and DURABILITY inherent in the Tracker design.

All this works together to make the Tracker SIXTRACK the strong, light, high performance wide truck you've been waiting for.



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SkateBoarder

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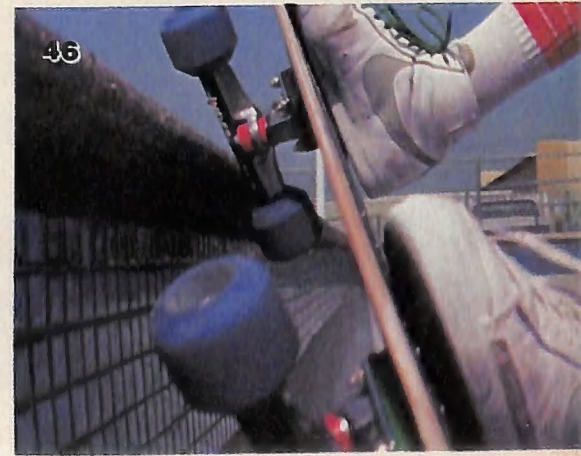
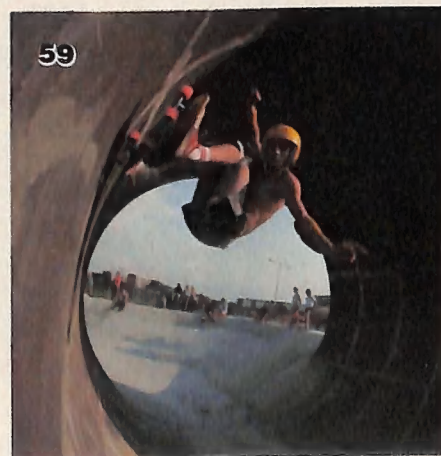
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COVER:
Stockholm's Per Viking regularly devastates the local skate community with layback aerials and other hot moves at home park, New Sport House. For the feature story on SKATEBOARDER'S travels through Sweden, Europe's newest skate frontier, see pp. 59-67. Photo: Cassimus





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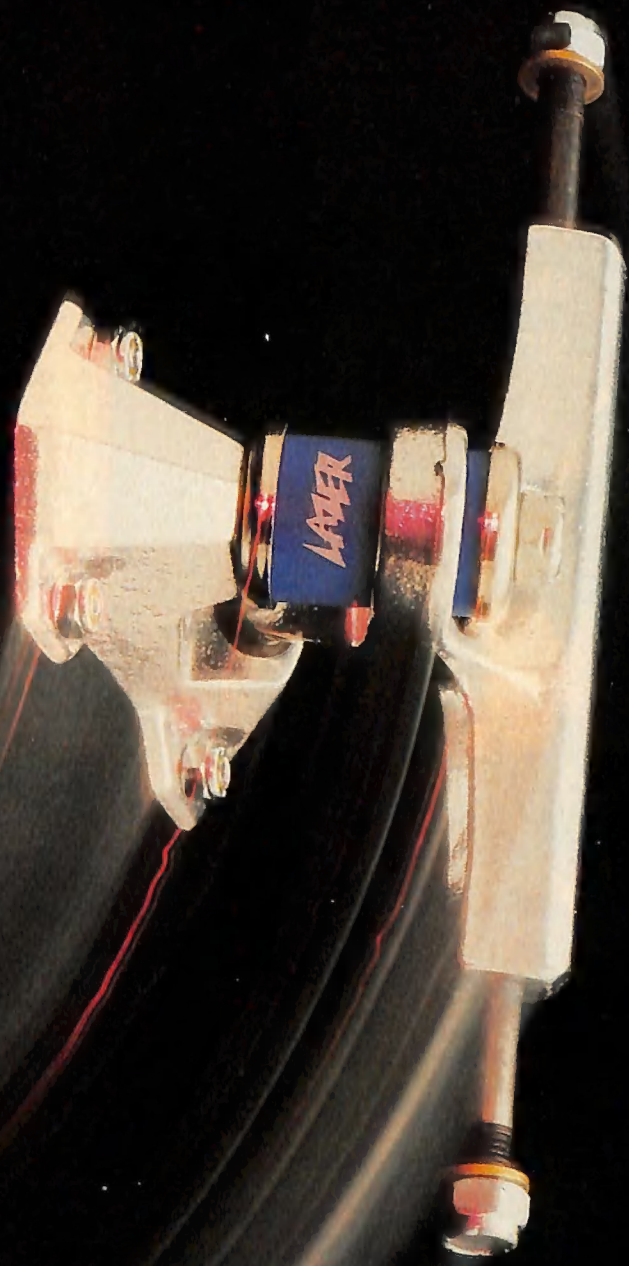
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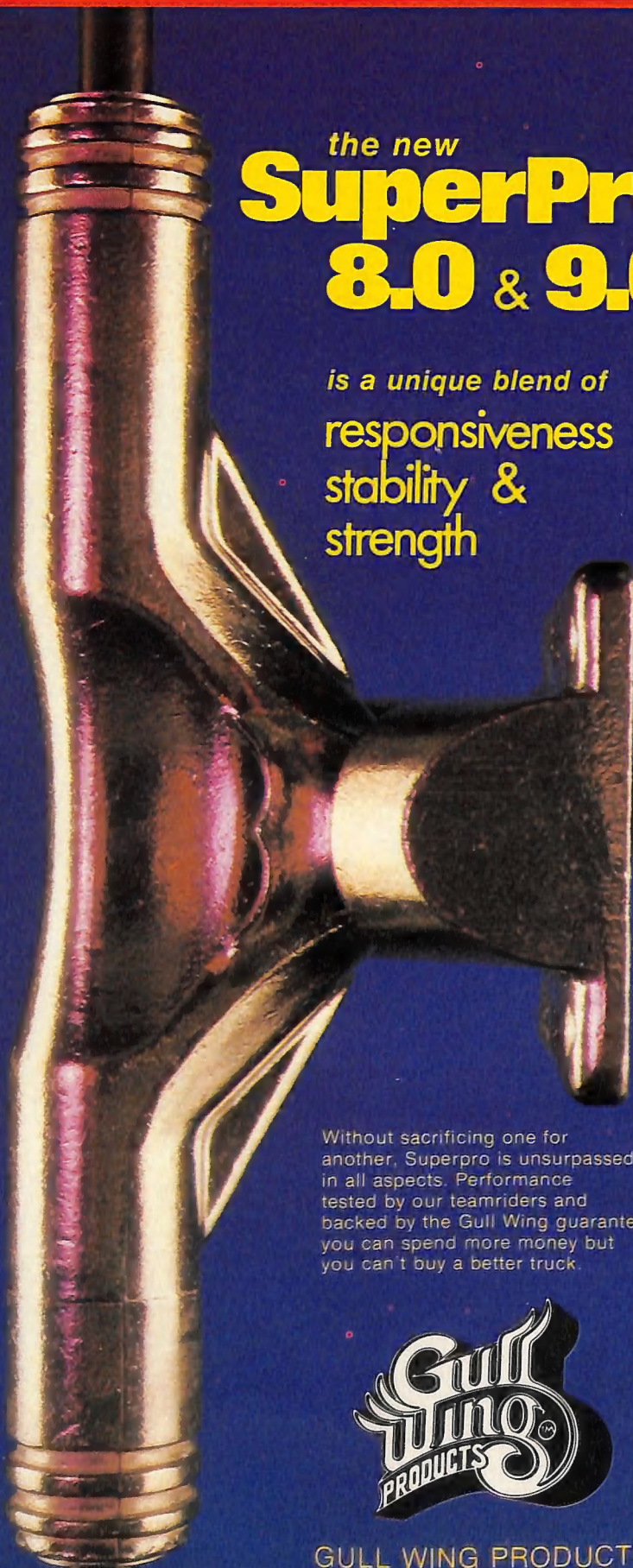
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PUBLISHER

Dave Dash

EDITOR

Brian Gillogly

ART DIRECTOR

Paul Randolph Haven

PHOTO EDITOR

James Cassimus

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Curtis Hesselgrave
Dorian Paskowitz, M.D.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Kathy L. Freygang

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Barbara Coker

ART ASSOCIATE

Lorie Disney

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jim Goodrich
Craig Fineman

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Glen Friedman • Wynn Miller
Guy Motil • Jeff Ruiz • Bill Sharp
Ted Terrebonne • Bruce Walker

PHOTO TECHNICIAN

Brian Miller

MUSIC EDITOR

Corky Carroll

CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

Ted Richards

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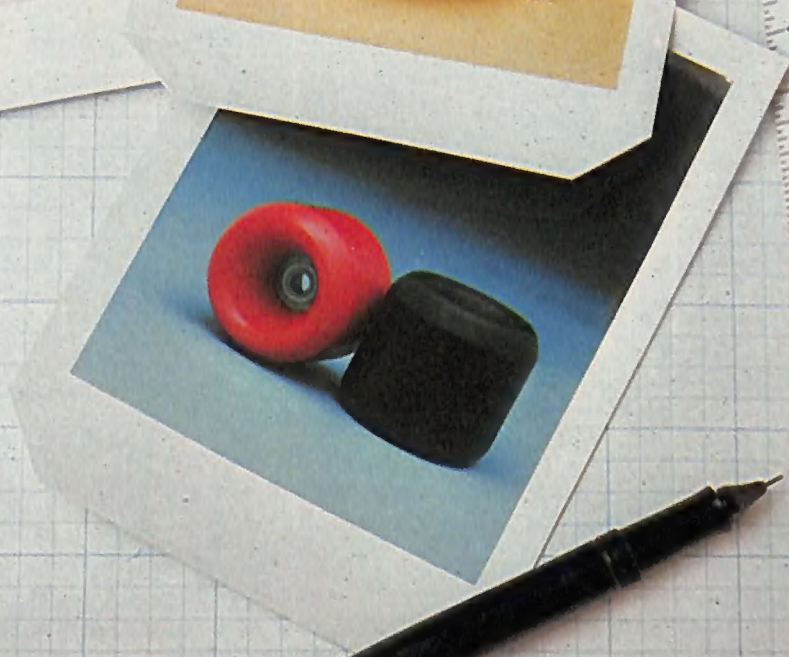
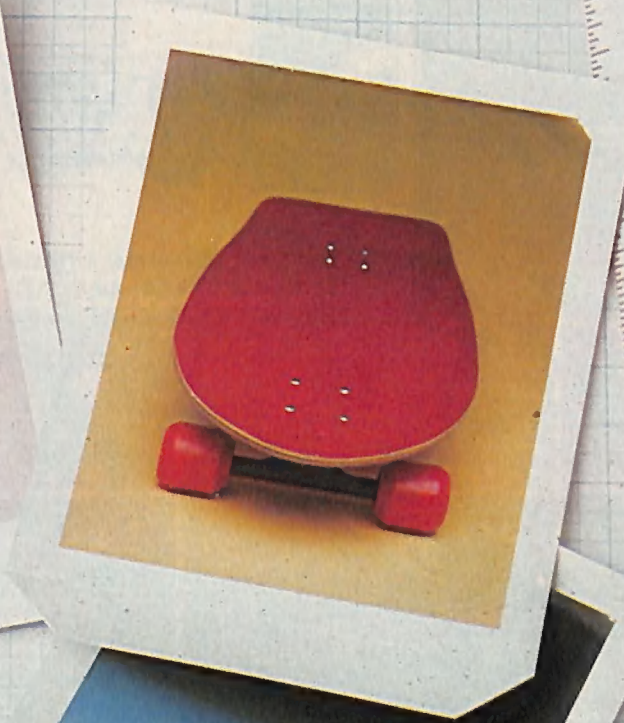
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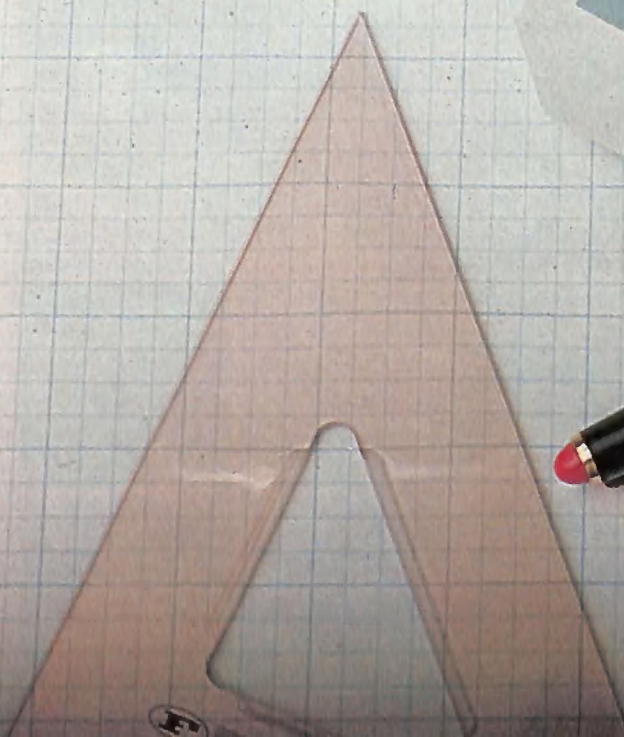
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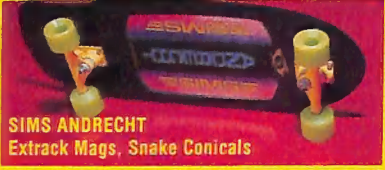
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Extracks, Alva Conicals



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Indy 151, Kryptonics CX-66



Z-PIG
Indy 169, Z-Wheels (smooth)



SANTA CRUZ Steve Olson
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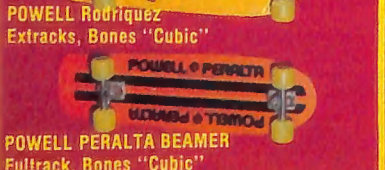
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HEAD BANDS, \$1.50 each: ☐ Skateboarder Magazine, ☐ Kryptonics, ☐ Sims, ☐ I.S.A., ☐ ACS, ☐ Lazer, ☐ G&S, ☐ HOBIE, ☐ Logan, ☐ Powerflex, ☐ Bolt.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Backside Aerial	<input type="checkbox"/> C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> A/S			<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> VAL SURF Specialists	<input type="checkbox"/> C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> C/L	<input type="checkbox"/> A/S	<input type="checkbox"/> A/L	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> VAL SURF Skdb. Capital	<input type="checkbox"/> C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> C/L	<input type="checkbox"/> A/S	<input type="checkbox"/> A/L	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> VAL SURF Stripe	<input type="checkbox"/> C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> A/S			<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Skate Stripe	<input type="checkbox"/> C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> A/S			<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Tracker	<input type="checkbox"/> C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> A/S			<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Kryptonics (circle)	<input type="checkbox"/> C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> A/S			<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Kryptonics (rectangle)	<input type="checkbox"/> C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> A/S			<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent (Indy)	<input type="checkbox"/> C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> A/S			<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Dog Town Skates	<input type="checkbox"/> C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> A/S			<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Sims (Wings)	<input type="checkbox"/> C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> C/L	<input type="checkbox"/> A/S	<input type="checkbox"/> A/L	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Sims Snake	<input type="checkbox"/> C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> A/S			<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Sims Pro Shirt A/S only @ \$14	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<input type="checkbox"/> XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Shown) Alva, Lazer, Gull								
<input type="checkbox"/> Wing, ACS, Bennett, G&S,								
<input type="checkbox"/> "Z", Powerflex, Town & Country,								
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STICKERS (medium) 50¢ (includes postage): ☐ VAL SURF, ☐ VAL SURF Skate, ☐ G&S, ☐ O'Neill, ☐ Alligator, ☐ Wheels, ☐ Bennett Trucks, ☐ Road Rider, ☐ Park Rider, ☐ Z-Flex, ☐ Lightning Bolt, ☐ Hawaii, ☐ Surfer, ☐ Surfing Mag., ☐ Skateboarder Mag., ☐ OJ, ☐ Tracker, ☐ G&S Fibreflex, ☐ Logan Earth Ski, ☐ Power Paw, ☐ Bahne, ☐ Cadillac, ☐ Santa Cruz, ☐ Weber, ☐ ACS, ☐ Magnum, ☐ Lemon Juice, ☐ Kryptonics Star Trac, ☐ Powerflex, ☐ Bones, ☐ Tunnell, ☐ International Skateboard Assoc., ☐ Rocket, ☐ Quicksilver, ☐ Warp II, ☐ YoYo, ☐ X-Caliber, ☐ Rebound, ☐ Alva, ☐ Cell Blocks, ☐ HOBIE, ☐ Diamond, ☐ Power, ☐ Flex, ☐ Park Rider, ☐ Rector, ☐ Lazer, ☐ Pepsi, ☐ Energy, ☐ Endless Wave, ☐ Z-Woody, ☐ Z (circle), ☐ Morey Boogie

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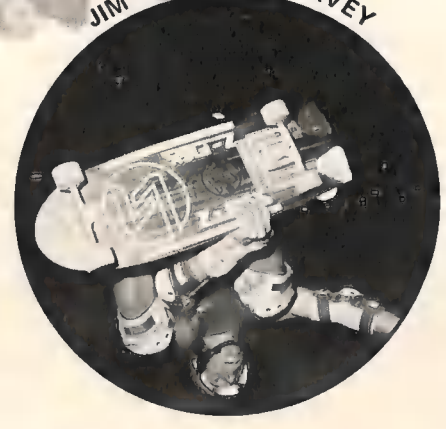


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SKATE TIPS

Number Thirty-nine

ROCK 'N ROLL BOARDSLIDE

by Doug Saladino


During the last few months, the rock 'n roll has become a basic maneuver for many top pros and amateurs. As usual, once a trick is developed, skaters try different variations. Some of the variations of the rock 'n roll are: cess slide rock 'n rolls, 360° rock 'n rolls, pogo's (which are aerial rock 'n rolls), and crossover rock 'n rolls.

About a month and a half ago, I saw Chris Strople do yet another type of rock 'n roll, which involved sliding on the bottom of his board. A couple days later, I tried it and got it wired. At that point, I was doing it about 3-4 coping blocks. But recently, when I was skating at Cherry Hill, I saw a guy named Mike Jesolowski slide about 10 coping blocks with consistency. I watched carefully and soon I knew how he did it! The key to long rock 'n roll slides is to stand straight up and slide on the center point of your board. To break down the trick further:

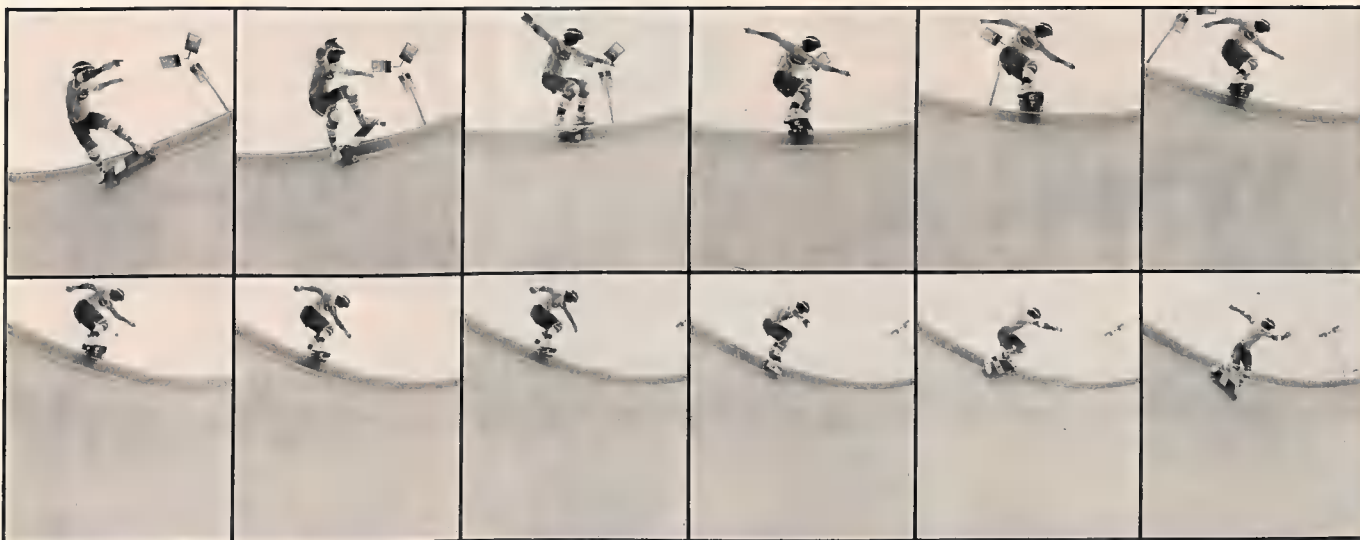
1. Approach the wall backside at an angle and with speed.
2. When you are near the top, let your board wrap over.

3. After your board is on top, you should straighten it out (perpendicular to the coping), and then stand straight up. Precise balance is very important in this trick. If your weight is off, your board will shoot out from under you.

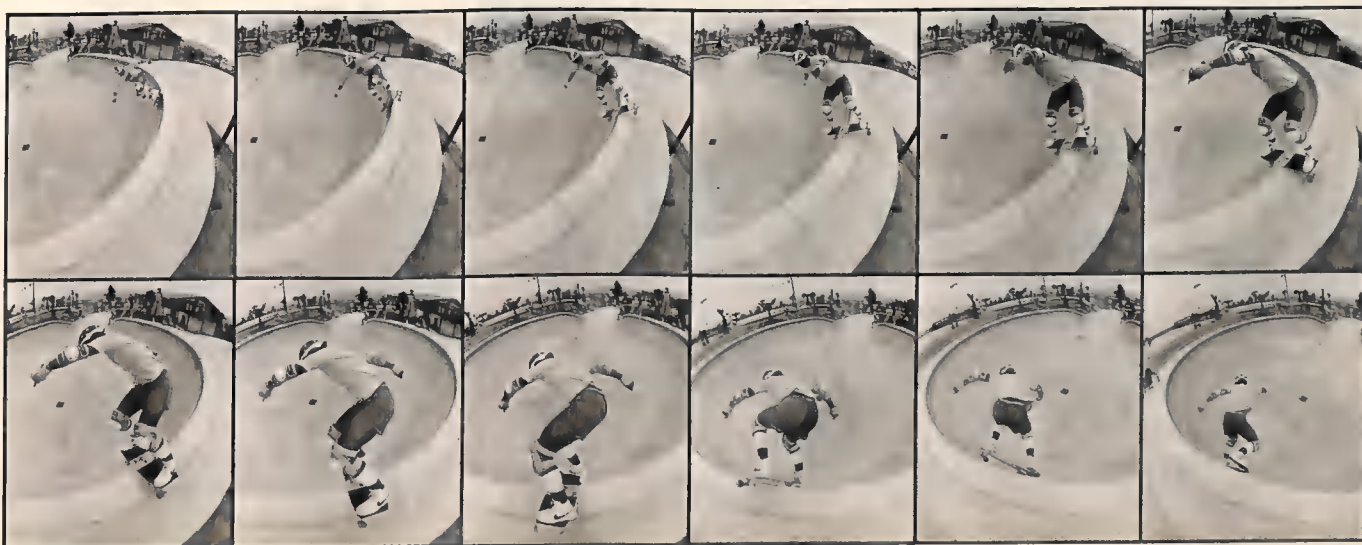
4. After you slide your board as far as you can, it is important to maintain some speed for the drop back in. In fact, the re-entry is just the same as during a regular rock 'n roll, except that you are moving. When you get ready to drop back in, just shift your weight downward, and follow through.

These steps should give you a basic idea of how to do the rock 'n roll boardslide. Most importantly, remember to slide on the center of your board and stand straight up. Go for it! 

"Stand straight up and slide on the center point..." Doug, Del Mar.



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SKATE POST

B.S. ON B.B. PHOTO?

I just got through reading the August edition of your mag. (Vol. 6#1). There is a picture of Brad Bowman on pages 46 and 47. I noticed that everything was in black & white, except him and one of the signs in the background. I then looked closer and noticed there were small lines around the color parts. He was obviously set-in. What do you have to say for yourself!

Mark Fields
Cupertino, Ca.

In your August '79 Vol. 6, No. 1 issue, page 47, you have a very suspicious looking picture of Brad Bowman doing an aerial in the Gyro Dog Bowl Pro. Is it a coincidence that everybody in the audience is dressed in black & white that day and Bowman is in blazing technicolor? I doubt it. Nice try, but no cigar! You faked it!

Jeff Feroce

Marion, Massachusetts

P.S. Your magazine is still magnifique!

Who are you guys trying to fool? That photograph of Brad Bowman flying off the hip at the Dog Bowl (p. 47, Vol. 6, No. 1) is definitely super-imposed.

Robert Newell

Clovis, Ca.

To Skateboarder Magazine — Skate Post,

I was glimpsing through my August edition when I came across a picture of Brad Bowman on pg. 46, 47, but what really caught my eye was that the picture was in black & white and the skater was in color; also the "Gyro Dog Bowl Pro" sign was in color.

It almost looks as if the picture was fixed. Then I looked more closely and saw that one of his wheels gave off a shadow.










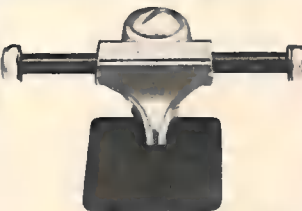

I just want to know what happened to the photograph — but other than that, I've enjoyed your magazine thoroughly. It's the best mag' around.

Wendy Kelly
Venice, Ca.

"Looks like we really outdid ourselves on this one. (We've even gotten phone calls!) Actually, what we used here is a simple layout technique known as "masking out" whereby part of the photo is purposely singled out (i.e., Brad and the banner are left in color) for emphasis and/or effect. Now, aren't you guys ashamed?" ... Ed.

CONGRATS

Congratulations on your July issue, Vol. 5, No. 12, it was really first rate. Your coverage of the Oasis 360 contest was

			
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super. It was brief, complete and had a lot of good pictures. I liked your interview with Steve Olson, and your Focus. Thanks a lot for a super highly-energized issue.

Rob Curtiss
Santa Monica, Ca.

We were stoked on your August issue (one of your best!), because of the excellent coverage of the Gyro Dog Bowl Pro (nice photos), and the Winchester Shoot-Out. Keep up the good work and don't forget, Hazi-moto, Elmo Skates and Stamo D-signs rule!!
The Punk-Wood Wave Gang
Rancho Cordova, Ca.

In your Vol. 5, No. 12 edition some guy wrote in and said that Cassimus puts some of the most radical pictures in your mag. Well let's give some credit to another really rad photographer: Craig Fineman puts out some really rad pictures too. Like the centerfolds of Shogo Kubo, John Stephenson, and Doug de Montmorency. I mean, he's really good. Well, we know only the best goes into SKATEBOARDER Magazine. You've got a great magazine, keep up the good work. Thanks for your time.

Craig Simmons
Hanahan, S.C.

TV COVERAGE

How come SKATEBOARDER Magazine doesn't film the Hester Pro Bowl contests or any other major contest for that matter? If you had films of these contests, maybe you could get the networks to televise the films on Sports World, ABC Sports, etc., just to name a few. I can't think of a better way to have skateboarding recognized, can you?

Troy Hines
Helena, Montana

"We agree regarding the power of television. Unfortunately, your suggestion does not jibe with network policy. The best solution we can offer is that you write the networks suggesting more skateboarding coverage and advance notice of skate competition, like the Del Mar Hester Pro (filmed by CBS)." . . . Ed.

SKATE TIPS

We are writing to you from a small college town and we skate everyday at a halfpipe. Our problem is that it is hard for us to learn new moves both in freestyle and vertical riding. We haven't been skating too long so there are lots of moves that we want to learn. We don't have the advantage of going to parks regularly to watch and ask guys about certain moves. The only way that we keep in touch with skating is with your magazine, and the only way we learn new tricks is with *Skate Tips*. So we would appreciate it if you would

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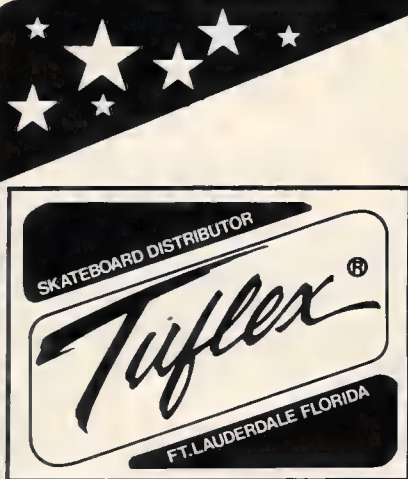


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the sport.

T.B., J.T., A.W., P.J.S., M.H.
Blacksburg, Va.

"We're looking into it. By the way, what
do the rest of you think?" ... Ed.

ALVA



I read in your August issue the criticism
about Tony Alva's "unprofessional"
behavior, and there's a couple of things
I'd like to say, (Tony, I hope you read
this!). I met Tony, Jimmy Plumer, Jay
Adams, Paul Constantineau
(congratulations on your marriage),
Billy Yeron, Mark Baker and
photographer Wynn Miller, last
November here in Guadalajara, where I
live. They came to inaugurate a
skatepark. I must tell you that they all
were so-o-o terrific, so-o-o friendly, we
were all amazed. As for Tony, wow! I
was with him a lot, at the skate park,
eating, swimming. We even went to a
private discoteque and I found out that
Tony is a very down-to-earth guy; he's
fun, warm, a gentleman, he even gave
me his phone number in case I'm ever
in L.A. By now you may think I have a
crush on him ... I don't, but I'm just
trying to say the truth about a friend.
And whether or not he is a showoff, he
has what most guys envy: a profession,
a company, girls and money. I must
say that should make anyone proud
and want to show it off! Thanks!!

Viviana Dean
Guadalajara, Mexico

SKATING'S UNREAL?

We over here on the East Coast think
that skateboarding's fake! You must
think that people are pretty stupid, as if
somebody really believes that
skateboarding exists. You do have
good special effects, though — those
models of bowls, pools, etc. And all

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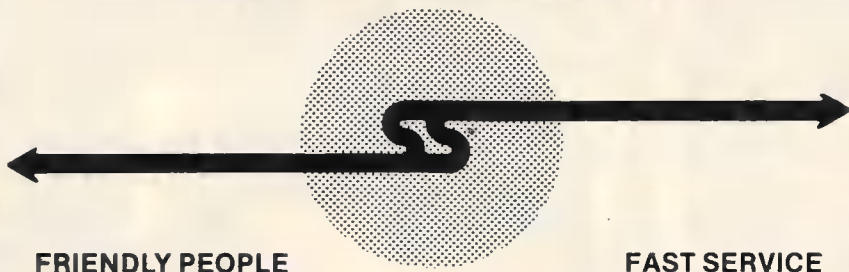
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those skaters you make up . . . Alva, Adams, Inouye, Olson, DeMontmorency. Also, we have been all through New Jersey, and there is no skate park in Cherry Hill. In fact, there is no Cherry Hill! Brandon Johnson Pat Kearney Lebanon, Pa.

FREESTYLE

Freestyle on the cover!?! (Vol. 5, No. 12) Unbelievable, but rad! Freestyle in Transition, Part 1, goes to show your magazine is versatile and hot. Being a freestyler myself, I think freestyle is coming back. Some type of freestyle series would definitely kick things off, as T. Scroggs said.

Roger Canada

Lenoir City, TN.

STILL STOKED

In reaction to Sloane Chen's May issue letter, about "nowhere to skate because the nearest park is 50 miles away," I've got some news! I'm not a serious skater, just a punk street-skater with cheap stuff, but I live in Valdez, Alaska, and I keep up with things at the only park in Alaska in Anchorage, 400 miles from here. What's more, the park has only a halfpipe, and a cheap track with only 3 bends in it! And just because we're in Alaska doesn't mean we're not decent skaters. So there!

The Eskimo on Wheels

Valdez, Alaska

HOW ABOUT . . .

How about a Steve Alba interview? It's about time for one, considering that he's the most consistent skater (along with John Hutson) during the past year.

Also, how about Who's Hot on some of the winners in the recent USASA amateur contests (like Eric Grisham)? J.

Stuck in Missouri

"Eric's Who's Hot is coming up.

Regarding Alba, turn to page 46." . . . Ed.

GREENOUGH

I am writing to thank George Greenough for starting to design skateboards. A few days ago I saw "The Fantastic Plastic Machine" on the tube. George was jammin' the waves with his knee board. If he does half as much for skateboards as he did for surfing, the sport will take off. Thanks, George, that graphite board will probably be the raddest!

Jai Dix

Ft. Knox, Ky.

P.S. How about a little article on George Greenough and his theories on skateboard decks?

"In an upcoming 'light board symposium' we will be soliciting just such comments from George and others." . . . Ed. ☺

SKATE SAFE

SKATE SHOES

by Doug Schneider

One of the major dilemmas in the life of any skateboarder comes each time he buys a new pair of tennis shoes. It always seems that just when you break your shoes in to the point where you like them, they begin to wear out. There isn't much you can do to make a pair of shoes last longer, but there are a few points that you should consider before your next purchase so that you don't get stuck with something you don't want.

Most of the more well known shoe companies, such as Adidas, Converse, Nike, and Puma, have several styles of shoes which are ideal for skateboarding. Vans and Hobie sell shoes that are made especially for skateboarders. All of these companies sell both high tops as well as low tops. Low tops offer added mobility to the ankle while high tops provide more support and protection. Many people

who use low tops wear ankle guards to protect their ankles. Most ankle guards restrict ankle movement to some degree, though less than wearing high top tennis shoes.

Price is a big difference between low and high tops. (Example: a Nike Bruin low top retails for about \$18.00, while the same model in a high top costs between \$38.00 and \$40.00.)

Next thing to consider is the material you want the tops to be made of. For instance, suede stretches a lot more than canvas. If you buy a suede shoe which fits perfect when you first buy it, it will tend to stretch out and you may end up having to wear two pairs of socks after awhile. In other words, suede and leather shoes should fit really snug at first, not necessarily in length, though definitely in fit.

Another important point is the relative advantages and disadvantages of soft (rubbery) soles as opposed to stiff soles. Vans and Nike shoes are fairly soft soled, which enables more "feel" of the board. Hobies and Pumas, on

the other hand, are stiffer, which makes it harder to sense where your feet are at all times, but offer more support when jumping off of your board and, naturally, last a bit longer.

Tread patterns vary greatly and *do* tend to affect grip. The more tread that touches the board, the better the grip. Nike treads resemble ripples and work best with regular grip tape because only the tip of the ripple is touching the board (especially when the shoe is new). The dotted and square treads are usually a little stiffer and grip better with pizza deck (again, particularly when the shoe is new). Once the soles are broken in, the grip tape used doesn't matter as much.

Finally, when buying your shoes, check soles for loose glue joints, loose threads and imperfections on the bottom of the soles. In the final analysis, don't buy a shoe because it works for someone else — buy it because it fits your own style and needs. They're *your* feet — treat them right! ☺

Skate shoes affect performance . . . Doug, showing a good "feel" for equipment and terrain.



ROLL 'N ROCK

by Corky Carroll

After last month's blast of really quality stuff, I found the pickin's comparatively slim this time around. Although there are a few real good new releases out, namely the new Dire Straits and the "Knack," I have chosen to go with a couple of new groups that are virtually unknown outside their local areas. Also included are two particularly significant letters that I thought should be answered here.

Regarding our "Music to Skate By Contest," we're finally getting some entries. By the way, it's not too late for you to enter. Just make up a cassette of yourself or your friends playing the kind of music you like to skate to. The contest is open to anyone, amateur or professional. We still haven't come up with a prize yet, but we are working on it. All entries should be in by January 1, 1980, and should include your name, address, and title of your composition. Aahooo!

LETTERS

Dear C.C.,
I'd like you to settle a bet for me. What is the difference between punk rock and New Wave? I say punk music is just what the name implies: written for and by jerks. It uses stupid lyrics and worse music. I think that New Wave has stronger roots in traditional rock 'n roll. Both types use special electronic effects, but I think that New Wave uses better (i.e., more intelligent) lyrics. I don't want to turn this into an editorial. One more thing: My friend says that the best example of punk is Devo, while I think the best example of New Wave is Dire Straits. Any comments would be welcome. Thanks.

Sincerely,
Paul Gerle
Patchogue, New York

"The difference between punk and New Wave may seem very slight, yet there really is a world of difference. Most New Wave music is musical, whereas most punk music is more defiant attitude, social statement and experimentation than it is music! That is my opinion anyway. Devo is most definitely a New Wave band, whereas the Sex Pistols would be a punk band. Dire Straits is a fairly straight-ahead rock 'n roll band. I really like that guitar player in Dire Straits . . . These days music is truly getting specialized!" . . . C.C.

Dear Sirs,
My friend and I had a small argument yesterday about how you get the Top Ten rock groups for skating. He thinks that somebody just writes them out and I think that you take some kind of vote. How do you do it?
Sincerely yours,
Justin Kirby
Topanga, California

"The Top Ten is made up totally according to mail response. People write in their favorites and I add up who gets the most votes each month. A lot of the same groups turn up every month, while some show strong only for a month or two! Send in your picks!"
. . . C.C.

TOP TEN

1. Led Zeppelin
2. Cheap Trick
3. Dire Straits
4. Ted Nugent
5. Jimi Hendrix
6. Aerosmith
7. Charlie Daniels Band
8. Devo
9. The Tubes
10. Jackson Browne

PEARL HARBOR & THE EXPLOSIONS

415 Records

Reputed to be the hottest thing to come out of San Francisco in years, Pearl and her band have recently taken over the club scene in the Bay area. New Wave, rock, pop, hard drivin' and hard movin' music. Also, Pearl has those great stage moves and looks great, too!



This single attracted the attention of many major record labels and has led to the signing of the band by Warner Brothers. So you may want to pick up this 45, as it will no doubt be a collector's item!

The real thing here is the promise of things to come! Pearl seems destined to become a very popular act in the near future. The single is good, although not revolutionary. But again, this act is just oozing potential! Look for the explosion real soon!

THE DIXIE DREGGS — Night of the Living Dregs

Capricorn Records CPN 0216

This is a great instrumental album. The driving rhythms should be hot to skate to, although the music is pretty sophisticated. I imagine you'd call this a combination of rock, jazz, and country! Whatever you call it, it's pretty serious work for sure.

The band is made up of five conservatory musicians who decided they wanted to boogie. Some of you may remember that "Boston" and the "Electric Light Orchestra" started this same way!

One cut on the album that sticks out in my mind is "Punk Sandwich." All in all, a great song title! All in all, a great record! 🍷

Pearl and the boys.





Galtanri and McGill

The Powell-Peralta performance ethic.

The Beamer™... First of its kind, featuring the highest strength to weight ratio in its class. The Brite-Lite™... A new technological breakthrough resulting in an ultra light high strength laminate. The Bones® Cubic 64x64mm and the Mini Cubic™ 64x57mm... The most influential wheels around.

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CASSINIUS



CASSINIUS



CASSINIUS

REPORT FROM BOULDER

or the trials and successes of
Hester #2

by Craig Fineman

As Continental flight #111 began its ascent, I glanced up the coast toward home. Although it seems every time I travel for SKATEBOARDER, the surf manages to get respectable, on this particular occasion I was extremely anxious to get away. The combination of my hurried walk from lot "C" to the terminal, and the official second stage smog alert for the greater Los Angeles area, prepared me for my flight without so much as a thought of surfing. I had exciting visions of another visit to clean, clear and beautiful Colorado.

Hester Pro Bowl #2 was to be held at the High Roller Skatepark of Boulder, Colorado. If you have never had the opportunity to visit Boulder, your life is not complete. It's an intimate and rustic town which is beautifully nestled at the foot of the Colorado Rockies. The view surrounding the skatepark, I must admit, is a real live, bonafide, picture postcard scenic backdrop.

(Photos from left to right)

Eric Grisham displayed both flash and consistency on his way to 2nd place.

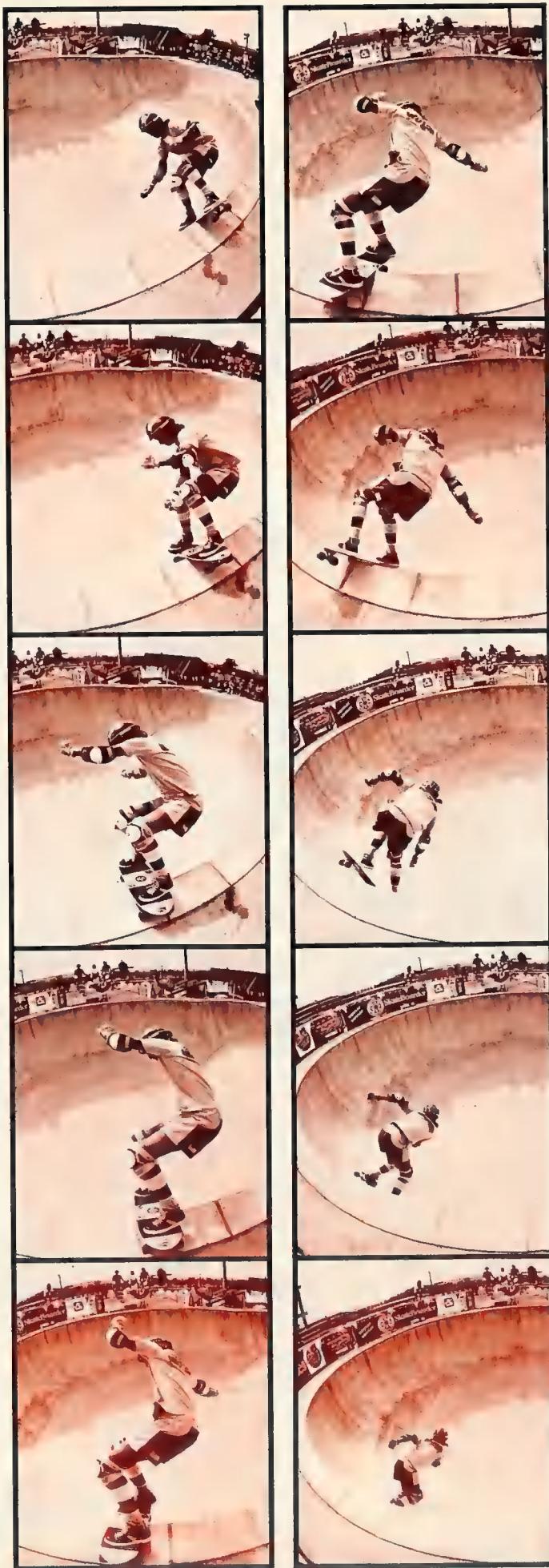
Veteran pro Wally Inouye made the top 16, showing some characteristic class.

Chris Strople blew a promising start with an unfortunate fall Sunday morning.

Fourth place David Andrecht ripped high and hard despite a bad knee.







As the morning of the contest broke, it appeared that judges Curtis Hesselgrave, Curt Kimbel, Michael Williams, Eric Harp and Byron Kasic would have their hands full evaluating the performances of some 30 plus entrants. The majority of skaters were naturally, from the Southern California area, although there were at least four skaters representing Colorado and one or two from Montana. All in all, the stage was set and the crew cast for what we all hoped would turn into one of the raddest pro bowl performances yet.

Beautiful Colorado skies and temperatures that soared into the 90's were the official Boulder greeters, as the early qualifying rounds began. The grandstands were packed full, and you would have been hard-pressed to find even a single wilted spirit, despite the heat and tropical-like humidity. The fans and the curious alike proved without a shadow of a doubt, that skateboarding is alive and well in Colorado, with an enthusiasm very much like that of the early California skate scene.

As the top sixteen were about to be announced, tremendous thundershowers could be seen in the surrounding countryside. Periodically punctuated by lightning, D. David Morin made the all-important announcement: The entire team from Haut made the cut, including their newest recruit, Darrel Miller; Bert La Mar, David Andrecht and Brad Bowman came through for Sims; Steve and Micke Alba would be representing Boulder's own Kryptonics; Duane Peters and point leader Eddie Algura were with Hobie; Chris Strople and

(Left)

With 5 coping block rock 'n roll slides, and more recently, his back flip, Darrell Miller has emerged one of the flashiest skaters on this year's circuit.

(Opposite page)

Pro bowlriding's 13-year-old man of the moment, Micke Alba, took the point lead during the second round at Hi-Roller and never let up.





BOULDER SLALOM EVENT

It was already late in the afternoon of the second day of Hester #2, that the slalom event got off the ground. From two wooden kicker ramps above the asphalt track, the predominately local competitors cranked through the initial widely spaced cones and then geared into a much tighter set of gates below. Alongside the 150' plus track, spectators lounged in good view of the action and were never disappointed. Although not a head-to-head race, the two courses being different, the approximately 8% grade offered a thorough challenge. In the end, despite organizational problems, threatening thunderheads, and even a few light sprinkles, the racing was right on. Hopefully this positive precedent will be continued at the next Hester slalom competition, now being scheduled for #5 at the Pipeline, Upland.

HESTER BOULDER RESULTS:

SLALOM:

1. Bill Hanes
2. Dave Piernak
3. Carl Koornaa
4. Scott Solenya

BOWL RIDING:

1. Micke Alba (100)
2. Eric Grisham (85)
3. Eddie Elguera (75)
4. David Andrecht (65)
5. Scott Parsons (55)
6. Brad Bowman (50)
7. Duane Peters (45)
8. Kevin Reed (40)

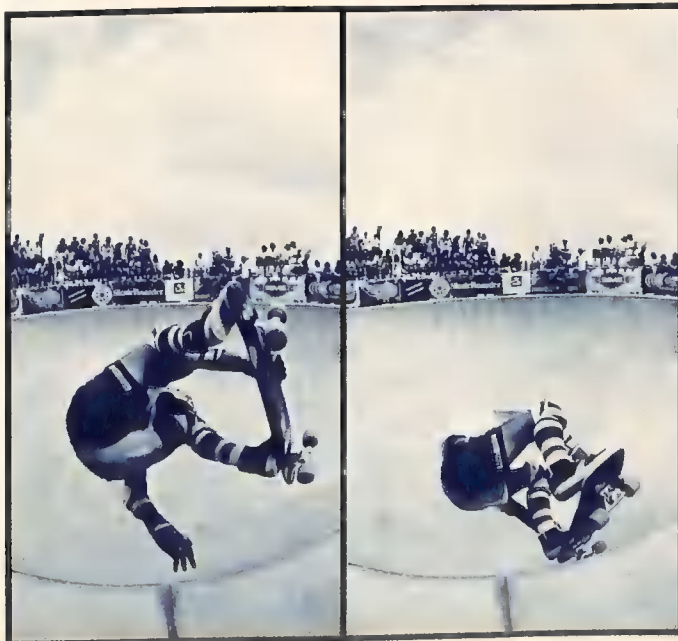
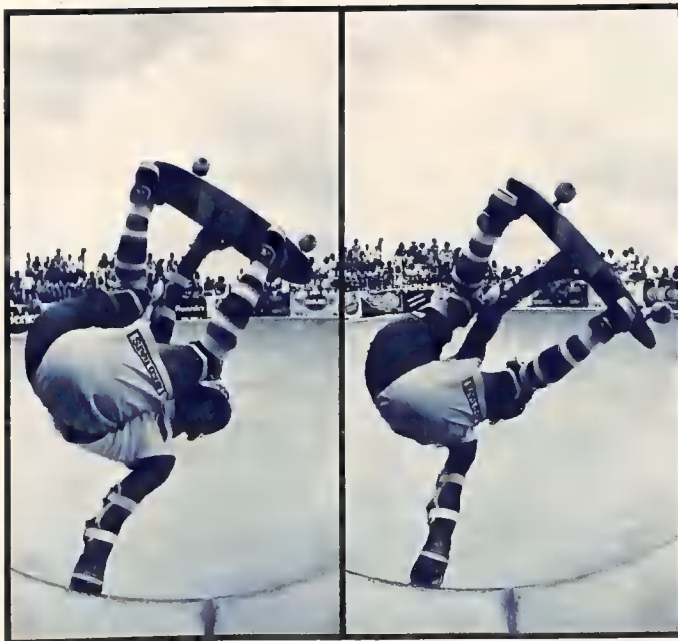
(Left)
Local boys made a clean sweep, among them Bill Hanes (1st) and Carl Koornaa (3rd).

(Above left to right)
Dave Piernak, totally engrossed in the moment, outruns his competition for 2nd place.

Colorado's Brent Kosik and Badlander Harvey Hawks, neck and neck through the Hi-Roller course.

Hawks pulls away from Steve Olson at the course's end.





Wally Inouye scored well for Caster/I.P.S. and Gyro wheels; Ray Bones pulled through for Powell; and Eric Grisham ripped for Variflex.

By the time the semifinals approached, a moment of silence almost seemed appropriate for skaters injured in the line of duty. Rodd Saunders had shattered his wrist during practice on Thursday night, and Chris Strople managed a nasty shoulder splat early Sunday morning. Strople came away with possible broken ribs and a definite bruised shoulder which put him out of the competition. Lastly, both Kevin Reed and David Andrecht were skating on very tender knees. Andrecht's injury was bad enough for Henry Hester to make an unusual plea for David not to skate (Raver said "later" with that stuff, eventually taking fourth place overall).

The next event on this day's hectic schedule was the carve. An unusual aspect of the event was the fact that the tape markers were placed within three inches of the coping, which made it necessary to grind to make the carve. During the initial round of carves, Scott Parson of the Haut crew was the first skater to clear the markers. Only three more skaters made the carve in the first round: Eric Grisham, Brad Bowman and Micke Alba. In the second round everyone made the mark with the exception of Brad Bowman. In the third round of the carving category Scotty Parson was the only skater to cut it, thereby making him the winner of the carving event, and a hundred dollars richer.

As the top sixteen battled it out for the bucks, Micke Alba showed his versatility and strength. He broke up his routine with a multitude of lines, and was one of the only skaters to use the entire bowl. His skate strategy paid off, thrusting him into first place in total points thus far. (Micke's final run this round earned him a number of 91's and 92's, easily making him the higher scorer of the weekend.)

(Left)

Eddie Elguera swings through his patented aerial bert for an early lead and an eventual third place in the Bowl Riding.

(Opposite page)

Duane Peters pulls and thrusts a high backside aerial, landing him in 6th place.



GOODRICH



CASSIMUS



CASSIMUS

With a packed house anticipating the next cut, and thunder and lightning threatening, the top eight were revealed: Eric Grisham, Kevin Reed, David Andrecht, Scott Parson, Duane Peters, Brad Bowman, Eddie Algura, and, of course, Micke Alba. During the run-off which followed, we had a slight scare as the rain began to fall ever so lightly. The squall managed to back off and stay put on the outskirts of Boulder, as the skating raged on. And rage it did, this semifinals evolving into one of the most exciting displays of contemporary riding I have witnessed to date.

Surviving this amazing trial were four worthy finalists. In first place and skating with extreme confidence was Micke Alba, a crowd favorite all weekend; standing firm in second place was the newly flamboyant Eric Grisham; disappointed with third place was hot newcomer Eddie Algura; and last but not least, skating on a terribly sore knee was David Andrecht.

In essence, it was an excellent competition, and the turnout was fairly strong considering the out-of-state locale. Boulder, Colorado was an exceptional host for Hester #2 and everyone involved really enjoyed themselves.

As for the post-contest activities, it was a Mexican dinner and a viewing of Clint Eastwood's new movie, "Escape from Alcatraz." Not bad, but what we witnessed that weekend at High Roller was definitely spicier and even more intense. Until next time, adios and stay legal. ☺

(Left - top to bottom)

Northern California's Scott Parsons cleaned up at Boulder, taking 1st in carving and 5th in bowlriding.

Kevin Reed of Santa Cruz continued to blow minds on the circuit, with spirited routines and unique moves like this tail stall.

Sixth place Brad Bowman, showed class and clean lines in Hi-Roller's key-hole.

(Opposite page)

Peter "Kiwi" Gifford, winner of Hester #1, Winchester, also turned over a respectable performance at Hester #2.





FLORIDA

Summer/Fall '79

by Jim Goodrich

In the ever-evolving skate arena of Florida, the main strength of the skating has been in the energy of the devotees, and not particularly the skate surfaces. It has been a steady but difficult uphill climb which has brought this southern state to its present status as one of this country's strongest skate centers.

Bruce Walker, an important skate pioneer in this area, has worked for years toward furthering the sport, particularly through competition. Bruce has worked closely with the Clearwater park in their yearly "Sun 'n Fun" Skateboard Championships and has sponsored his own event in the competition (the Walker Downhill Open).

Clearwater Skatepark, on the Gulf side of Tampa Bay, has brought about a surge in skateboarding in the south and has worked toward progressing the sport as a whole in Florida.

Steve Fisher and George McClellan are Clearwater's strongest influences here and have proven themselves both at home and throughout the state.

Nearby Rainbow Wave Park in Tampa has added a wider variety of runs to their design and has given the skaters a more balanced combination of surfaces. Kit Traverso, the park's owner, is presently planning a skate pool in the near future which promises to be a sure boom for the locals. Tampa also boasts as being the home of Mike McGill, Florida's amazing super fly.

Over the last year, Florida's level of skate talent has risen so fast that most of the local manufacturers have been hard-pressed to keep up. Several West Coast skateboard companies have picked up many regional rippers for their East Coast promotion.

Z-East, with Scott Green and Mike Cox, has made a strong showing at nearly every contest in the state.

(Top right)

Scott McCranials, frozen in mid-Ollie air. Hollywood ramp.

(Right)

Mike Cox in full aggro assault on the long curve in Sensation Basin's snake.

(Opposite page)

Tampa's Ray Diez, layback aficionado, cuts one loose at home park, Rainbow Wave.



GOODRICH



GOODRICH

Likewise, Kryptonics has formed an incredible team of skaters drawn from hot spots throughout Florida. Among them are Steve Anderson and Dan Murray from the Boca Raton and Deerfield Beach area, and George McClellan and Steve Fisher from Clearwater. Perhaps their strongest up-and-coming talent, however, is 13 year old Ray Diez of Tampa.

On the East Coast of Florida is the site of the Cadillac Wheels Concourse, Frank "Cadillac Wheels" Nasworthy's lesser known contribution to the sport. Though it is presently closed, the park did more for Florida's early skate progress than possibly any other thing. Alan Gelfand, a Hollywood resident, learned his "Ollie" airs at the Concourse, shooting him to national fame. By the way, Alan, along with local Kevin Peterson and other friends, were responsible for the construction of the much photographed Hollywood ramp, which is situated in an open field near Gelfand's home.

The biggest problem in Florida with skate ramps is the often high humidity which warps and disintegrates wood at an incredible rate. One solution here, a

good coat of paint, has been used by Casey Chmielinski on his backyard ramp in Melbourne. The only drawback Casey has found is that the wood's surface becomes a little slippery, especially as the moisture in the air increases.

Ramps have always been the skaters' solution to the lack of pre-existing places to ride and have helped keep many skaters pushing the limit of vertical skating.

In the North, Gainesville's Sensation Basin has provided an oasis in a very isolated area. The park has the standard snake run, half-pipe and pool-bowl. (The only other pool in Florida is located at the Solid Surf Park in Fort Lauderdale.)

Gainesville's park is the home of several strong skate talents: Ed Womble, Peter Andrews, Bruce Mason, Ronnie Brown and Chris Baucom, to name a few. Shawn Peddie, from the far north capital of Tallahassee, frequents the "Basin," but also puts his own backyard pool to good use.

The Markel Company of Daytona Beach boasts two strong northern skaters, Clyde Rogers and Kelly Lynn,

who are both known statewide for their smooth styles.

In essence, the Florida skate community still shows a remarkable desire to overcome regional handicaps and keep pace with the growth of the sport nationwide. Despite setbacks and occasional discouragement in the past, the future seems increasingly bright and full of fresh talent. From Florida's northern handle to its southern tip, hot skaters are numerous and new maneuvers common, lending the impression that this state will continue to play an important, dynamic role within the worldwide skate community for some time to come.

(Below left)

Jeff Duerr rocks out and back in at Solid Surf.

(Below)

Alan Gelfand shows off his (and Kevin Peterson's) Hollywood ramp.

(Opposite page)

Sometime Floridian Mike Folmer tail taps high atop the Hollywood ramp.





2nd Annual Pepsi Team Challenge



(Far left)
Gainesville's Ronnie Brown gets high on local terrain.

(Left)
Top amateur, Mike McGill breezing at Sensation Basin.

(Opposite page)
Shaun Peddie, Gainesville.

SENSATION BASIN GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

On June 16 and 17 of this year, on the verge of summer, Florida's skate scene got off to an impressive start with Sensation Basin's 2nd Annual Pepsi Team Challenge. There was plenty of talent and the energy was high as 12 skateboard companies and parks sent their representatives to determine who would be Florida's new crop on top. Nearly every hot skater in the state, both pro and amateur, was there. The territories they traveled from ranged from the northern capital city of Tallahassee to all the way south to Tampa, Hollywood and Ft. Lauderdale.

The events within the contest were to include "wall-riding" in the snake run, pool riding, and freestyle. Prior to the weekend of the contest, the practice sessions were broken up a bit by on-and-off showers, but it wasn't enough to dampen the entrants' spirits. By Saturday morning, they were ready to go!

The pool riding was the first event of the day, starting with the youngest age group and working up to the pros. Scott Green and Casey Chmielinski were early standouts, though it was Ray Diez of Rainbow Wave in Tampa, with his consistently strong runs, who took first.

As the older skaters competed and the energy became more intense, the locals made their move into the arena to show off their well-practiced lines. Chris Baucom and Peter Andrews, both skating for "Sensation," easily slid into top spots. But in keeping with his reputation, Alan "Ollie" Gelfand of Powell captured the first place position.

Pat Weaver, originally from Florida, flew out from California to compete with his old friends and used his hand plants to capture first in the pool-bowl.

The wall-riding was by far the most long-awaited event, as the

locals and visitors alike prepared for what promised to be a close competition. The lines were long, working from the first wall of the snake run to the third wall (approximately 50 feet apart), and relying on the skater's pump and the speed of his wheels to propel him from wall to wall. The first bank was generally used as the set-up wall and the opposite bank was where the real competition took place. Every maneuver, from Alan Gelfand's Ollie air to Steve Anderson's over-the-lip axle stalls, was being exhibited there. Shawn Peddie of Walker Boards, displayed an array of hand plants and aials that was staggering, but not quite enough to knock Mike McGill and Clyde Rogers out of the top two spots. "Sensation" local Ed Womble pushed his way through the competition with a strong, consistent routine which compared to the one he used successfully at the Clearwater contest earlier this year.

Kryptonite powerhouse Ray Diez moved into the top position in the 13-and-under age group and probably could have competed favorably against the older age groups. Ray is definitely a talent to keep an eye on in the future. And Alan Gelfand once again proved a worthy adversary as he took a close first over Sensation local Peter Andrews, using Ollies, tail stalls, and bionic frontside aials.

Scott Green and Mike Cox made a good showing with their typical Z-styles. Both blazed in the bowl and the snake run, using radical bionics as their norm.

The freestyle, though being slower-paced, still attracted much spectator interest as teams competed to varied music from Rock to Devo to Disco. The Gordon & Smith Pro team, in Florida while on a national tour, stopped at the "Basin," judged the freestyle competition and found out how free the styles are in Florida.

Not surprisingly, Florida's freestyle champs, Tim Scroggs of Powell, and Rodney Mullen of Walker, took the obvious firsts in their age groups. Other strong standouts were Bob Little and Robert Shoemaker with smooth, well thought out routines. And if you saw a Kamikaze, a Z-flex board and a machetti all battling it out on the flats, it was none other than local Ed Womble fighting for the freestyle award for bionic craziness.

In the end, Kryptonics' newly-formed Florida team walked away with the highest total team points. Markel still carried a strong 2nd place and the local Sensation team followed close behind with 3rd place points. Powell, Z-East, Clearwater and Walker were among the other top teams competing.

Sensation Basin, after finishing their 2nd Annual Pepsi Challenge, are stoked with the backing and enthusiasm they've received and are looking forward to next year's contest. Considering the high energy displayed here, there could be many more such competitions in the years to come. ☺

PEPSI TEAM CHALLENGE '79 WINNERS

BOWL RIDING	18 & Over
13 & Under	Ed Womble
Ray Diez	Pros
14-15	Mike McGill
Chris Baucom	FREESTYLE
16-17	13 & Under
Alan Gelfand	Rodney Mullen
18 & Over	14-15
Pat Weaver	Brian McMahon
Pros	16-17
Clyde Rodgers	Bob Little
WALL RIDING	18 & Over
13 & Under	Henry Sarria
Ray Diez	Pros
14-15	Tim Scroggs
Chris Baucom	
16-17	
Alan Gelfand	





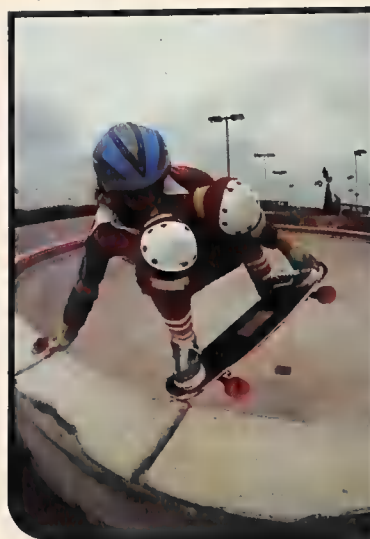
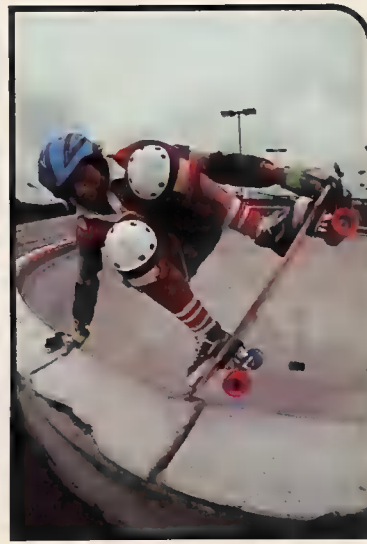
FOCUS

(Left)

Steve Alba, matching the magnitude of Upland's new pool on a critical, conical edge.

(Below)

John Tuisl pulls from the nose while bending forward for his own variation on the layback aerial. Del Mar.



FINEMAN

Jay Smith, unreal/layback in a surreal Marina sunset.









(Left)
Radiating lines and blazing tracks. Kent
Senatore, Turningpoint ramp, Solid Surf.
(Below)
Kevin Moore flies far beyond expectations
of his amateur status. Ollie air layback,
Pomona.



FINEMAN

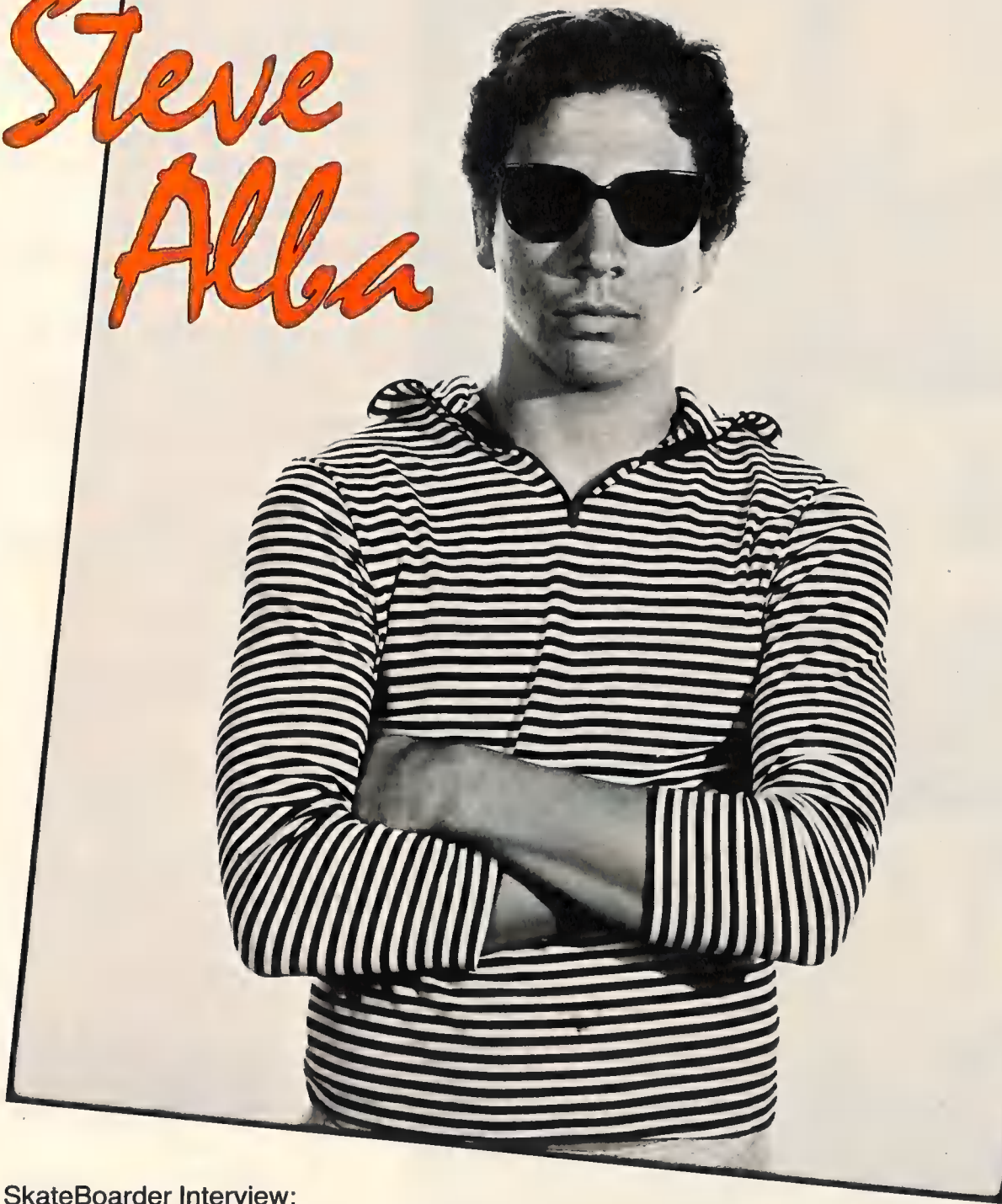
CASSIUS



"Le Machine" hones the edge at Upland in a full duration frontside grind.



Steve Alba



SkateBoarder Interview: by Don Hoffman

Steve Alba, the winningest vertical skater that the sport of skateboarding has yet produced, provides here some insight into being on the top and the struggle to stay there.

Nicknamed "Le Machine," for his ability to terrorize a bowl with machine-like precision, Steve will tell how difficult it is to keep that machine well-oiled.

My first encounter with Steve was at the old "L-pool," pre-Pipeline days. At this point in time Steve was able to handle all the vertical that the pool could offer, yet he wasn't considered by the locals as the man to reckon with. That distinction was left to others – Tay Hunt, Buddy Allred, and Lee Gahimer, to name a few. At this point, Steve Alba was generally considered just another local skate rat. Yet in the minds of a few of the "Big Boys," there was a notion that perhaps some day this "youngster" would present a challenge.

The next time Steve crossed my path was in May of '77, one week before the opening of the Pipeline Skatepark. It was a Saturday, rather hot, as I remember, when I received a call from someone at the magazine asking if Warren Bolster and a few pros could do a photo session. I knew no one was to ride until we had insurance and that day it was to go into effect. With the insurance problem resolved, I said it would be possible. My father had promised several of the L-pool locals that they would be able to skate along with the pros that would ride the park that day. Excluded at that point, however, was Steve Alba. So Steve came to me and asked if he could join in. My first thought was, "Hey, kid, you don't belong with this crowd!" But all I said



Vertical lip slide, Upland 12' bowl.



ASSIMUS

was to ask my father. Dad, remembering a past promise, gave him the green light. Well, Steve's face lit up and he quickly donned his gear, ready to go. As I watched Steve drop in, I saw a determination and drive that proved to me that indeed Steve Alba belonged with the "Big Boys." The rest is skateboard history . . . Steve has truly proved to everyone that he belongs with the pros.

I remember the first time I saw you at the L-pool. How'd you first get started skating?

We were skating a couple other pools by my house. We saw Lee and the group and they told us about the L-pool, so we went up there and checked it out. We liked it, so we started going up there every other weekend, started skatin' all the time.

What was it like up there — the environment, the people?

It was neat, had little contests and stuff.

Who did you consider the best skaters at the time?

I really respected Lee, Tay, Garrett (Chick), and Charlie (Ransom) — just all the local people.

Those are the people about whom you said, "Yeah, I wish I could be as good as them?"

Yeah.

From the L-pool, what was the next stop for you in skateboarding?

Bel Air pool and the Pipeline Skatepark. The park opened right after L-pool closed. About a month later.

Do you remember that first day when you came here to the skatepark?

Yeah, I wanted to get one-wheelers and 50-footers — and did it.

Do you remember everybody that was skating? Tell us about that first day.

It was "rad," there were a lot of people here. Like all the pros — like Ayres and Schneider. The whole crew was there, and everybody was just pushin' it, trying to see who could get the raddest. I was just tryin' to get wheelers and 50-footers, like I said.

That summer when you started gettin' much better, what was the first team or board that you received in appreciation for your skating ability? The first people that looked at you and said, "We want you"?

That's hard to say. I think it was C & D, then I skated for you guys, then it was tunnel, G & S, and now it's Kryptonics.

So Tunnel was really the first big break that you had as far as a team?

Yeah. They treated me pretty good, but there were problems.

How did it come about that you went to Spring Valley for the first Hester contest?

I was just ridin' here and I knew Schneider pretty well. Schneider helped me get on Tunnel, so I started ridin' for

them and started doing freestyle. I entered some amateur contests for them, finally went down there to the first pro bowl and just checked it out. I don't see why I won it, but I did.

You didn't expect that you could win?

No, nobody did.

Did you think you had a chance at all?

Not really. Pineapple and Martinez, all the guys from down there were good 'cause they were in pools everyday. We'd only ride in bowls, and we didn't know that many maneuvers. We were pretty far away from everybody. Nobody expected nothing out of me.

They thought Scott Dunlap looked pretty good. Tunnel took Scott on, too.

Yeah, Scott looked good, too.

So, that was the first time you got exposed to a big pro contest, and you won it. But I was there and everybody said the judging was weird, the way the contest was run was weird, and it didn't really mean anything. What'd you feel when people said Steve Alba didn't show anything, he's no good?

It didn't really bother me that much. I just wanted a better chance to prove myself. That was more like an endurance contest. Just showed who had the best endurance.

The next competition for Hester was at the Pipeline. Your home park. What happened?

I guess I was under pressure. I screwed up my leg too, pulled a muscle in my leg.

So you got kind of nervous being in the home park?

Yeah.

They kind of expected you to do well here and instead it looked like Tay Hunt was the man to beat?

Yeah, he ripped.

Since you only got 12th place, did it make you feel like maybe all those stories about you being lucky in Spring Valley were true?

I didn't really mind. I think I skated pretty good. I did well in everything else. All the side events.

How did you place?

I did first in the pipe, second in one-wheelers, first in doubles with Dunlap.

You went from there to Newark.

Newark was up north . . . a whole new thing. Tell me about that.

The park was really fun. It's just, I had more different tricks, so I fell again, 'cause I was still nervous. I hadn't gotten over the nervousness yet of being in competition.

Okay, so you still had this fear, kind of nervousness about big competition. Did you think you'd ever get over it?

Yeah, I wasn't really nervous of the

competition, it's just that I fell. I'd sort of get nervous when I'd go in there, sort of like get butterflies in my stomach.

Now we come to the Big O contest.

You were going in; you had won one and you had a couple decent finishes; in the Big O it looked like you had a chance, if you placed really high, to take over-all in the series. You had to prove something, that Spring Valley wasn't a fluke.

I felt really strong in the pool. You could do a lot of different lines like you could at Upland. There were so many different lines you could make there, so I was tryin' to do all of 'em. Go real fast and do all kinds of stuff in it.

How did you get over your nervousness?

I practiced a lot, and just got over it. Now once I get in-a bowl, I don't even care about anyone else. I just think about skating. I don't pay attention to anything else.

You ended up that year at the Hester series with two first places and you were over-all second. The next competition — tell me about that.

I don't really remember, but I think it was Winchester (Northern California). It was the hottest pool I'd skated to date. Still ranks high in my ratings. Now Upland's pool is really hot . . .

Winchester's still my second favorite.

You went up there and you seemed to have conquered your problem with being nervous. What'd you finish there?

Second at Winchester behind Tim Martin — I got ripped.

You think the judges ripped you off?

Yeah, just a bit.

Okay, we've got two firsts, and a second in pro contests . . . what came next, Lakewood or Oasis?

It was Oasis . . . I got third there. They combined half pipe with the pool, and I didn't do that good in the half pipe. If it'd just been the pool I think I would have had a really good chance.

So there was quite a lot of competition and basically you overcame your fear of not doing well.

You became what they call "le Machine," you just got it down and did your tricks. What can you tell other skaters about pro vertical competition, something that might help them out while competing in a contest?

You just gotta go out and practice everyday, like I used to and am starting to again. Practice at least 5-6 hours a day and don't become nervous. Get all your tricks wired so you can do them anywhere and any place. Like in a pool: you can't just do a trick on one side, you got to be able to do it on both sides. You can't be nervous, you can't pay attention to anything else when you're in the bowl. So you just skate good, get rad.



Did you do anything else to prepare for competition?

I was exercising and swimming, ridin' bikes, jogging every once in a while, lifting some weights. I've been doing that again lately, 'cause of my bad leg.

Do you think that helps then — a lot of outside exercise?

Oh sure. Totally helps you out. It increases your endurance, so you don't get tired. Just skate in the day, too . . . that way you don't get tired at all. Skatin' in the day, you get used to the heat, makes you just that much stronger.

Alright, so that just about brings us up to the first Hester this year. You had an injury. Can you tell us about that? What did happen and why you think it happened?

I don't know. I think I could've done pretty good in the contest. It's just that two days before the contest, I was going for real long grinders, we were having little contests, me and a couple other guys, and I was going really fast on a frontside carve. Somehow my knee gave out and hit the wall and I fell. I fell into the wall, put my hand out, but my knee hit first. So, I just screwed up my knee. I tore a ligament. I was out for almost 3 months.

And what'd you do to get back in?

Had to wait . . . I couldn't bend my leg at all. The doctor said I'd just screw it up more. I just listened to the doctor, and when he said it was fine, I started doing exercises and jogging and the whole trip — anything you can do to get your legs back in shape, I did.

Okay, we'll go back a little bit. You were competing in contests, you won the first one you were ever in, you went down, you went back up, pretty soon you won everything and now you have a lot of pressure — pretty much the guy to beat. How do you handle that pressure when everybody's out gunning for you?

I don't worry about it. You know, if



Rock 'n roll off the hips at Upland's square-round pool.

you're going to be on top, there's only one place to go and that's down. I don't let it bug me . . . you know, I'll be up there again. I've only been skatin' again for about a month now. The first contest I entered was Boulder — that was the second Hester (1979). I'd only been skatin' for about a week. Actually, it wasn't until 4 days before the contest that I went out there. People expected me to win again, and I wasn't strong enough, and I fell, you know. But that ain't gonna bug me.

Okay, you feel that the falling was because of your knee and body not being as strong as it was before or because of the pressure everybody puts on you to win?

Neither, really. I wasn't really concentrating that good. I hadn't really been practicing that much. Only about 2 or 3 hours a day because my knee would really get tired. Now its getting in good shape again, I'm skating 5-6 hours a day.

So you're saying it takes total concentration, and you build the concentration by constant practice?

Yeah, pretty much. At least for me, I don't know about anybody else.

Let's go back a while — you rode for Alva Skates . . . How come you chose to ride for Alva for awhile?

Well, they really had it together. They treated me really good and I'm proud of that. I was happy to skate for 'em. I was really happy for awhile, then I started doing really good and they wouldn't really do anything for me. They weren't going to put me in no ads, or give me a model or nothing. And I was wanting a little bit more money, and Kryptonics gave it to me and offered me some stuff, so I went for it. It paid off now. The only real complaint I have about them is they don't get equipment to me on time. Like, I ask for equipment and it won't be there for about 2 weeks, like when I really need it bad. Alva was a good trip, though.

Did you ever talk with Tony Alva when you were ridin' for Alva?

Yeah.

Did he comment about it?

Not really, he was just happy that I was skatin' for them and stuff. They didn't rip me off like everybody else did, like one manufacturer in particular did. I don't really want to mention any names.

That brings up another point: Do you think one of the problems in skateboarding is that the manufacturers have pulled a lot of things on the riders in general?

That's hard to say. So many riders now realize that what they're doing is worth some money. We're puttin' ourselves on the line just as much as anybody else — we get hurt, you know, we get broken bones and stuff. It's not fair just to get wheels, trucks and boards just to skate for somebody. Just like the contests

too, I think there should be a little bit more money in the contests. Skating our butts off all day for a couple days, you're really tired.

You work so hard, and you don't think you're getting the rewards you should?

Well, no. You could up it a thousand bucks . . . two thousand bucks would be pretty good.

Where do you think we're going to get money to put into contests to make the prizes worthwhile? Have any ideas?

Well, a couple ideas that me and (David) Morin worked on were getting a big company, like Coca Cola or Pepsi, somebody to back them. Like have a series and have some big company, world-known name to help us out. They'll be promoting it too. That would make it a lot bigger, plus it would attract a lot more people . . . get it on TV and the radio. Everything else, just really develop it.

You mentioned Morin. Why don't you tell us about Morin and what he's meant to your career?

He's meant a lot. He's like a big brother and helped me out so much. Everything I need, he'll take care of. He'll take care of traveling, equipment, he'll even help me with my personal life — you know, if anything's bugging me.

Do you think every pro should have somebody like Dave to stand by them?

Yeah, for sure. He's totally helped me out so much. Everybody that's ever rode for Kryptonics he's helped. He's tried his best for it. Like, he spends his own money on us too. He ain't gettin' that much from Kryptonics, and he helps us pay entry fees, traveling and all kinds of stuff.

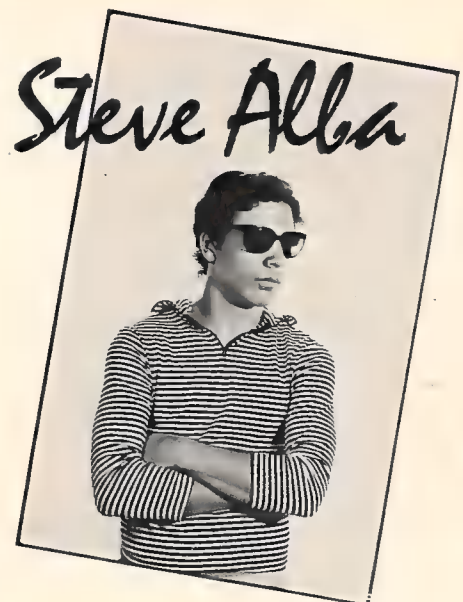
Your parents are pretty active. What do you feel about your parents involvement in the sport?

I like it. But you know I sort of get sick of 'em following me around. Though I don't really mind it . . . it's okay. I guess they're having fun too. They like to watch us do stuff. There's a couple other parents that do it too.

So you think it's good to have parents that are interested? To tell them, "Hey, that's great!"?

Yeah, for sure. It's like they've been on my side ever since I started skating. Like at the start, they saw me do it and they go, "you know you should get interested, do really good, and maybe be a pro someday." I said, "For sure, I'll just do my best." That's what I really dreamed about when I first started. Like you see all these people in the magazine, like Peralta and Ayres, and you just want to be like them. Finally, I'm there.

What do you think about your little brother? He's doing real well now, does that make it harder for you or



does that push you more?

Not really. I'm glad he's up there, but . . . I don't know, I like the kid, but he gets on my nerves sometimes. We're both growing up, brothers are going to fight, I guess. There's 3 years difference between us. I don't know, he just gets on my nerves sometimes. He's a good skater though, he really rips.

Do you think he's really good because of you? Did you help him or . . . ?

Yeah. He decided he wanted to be up there too. And I'm sure a lot of people influenced him, all the people that skated here. You know, Strople, Schneider, and you know, all the locals that used to skate all the time.

We talked about "Bulky" getting into punk rock. Some people say that you're getting into punk. What do you think about the "New Wave" and punk movement?

I'm into it, but not as much as he is. I like listening to it and it definitely helps my skating. Music helps anybody skate, no matter what they like.

Why?

I don't know — punk rock's fast music. Skating's a fast sport and that's why I like it. I don't go out every night and go pogo-ing and everything. I just listen to it when I skate. I don't go around dressin' up like that either. It's pretty fun though, we'll get rowdy and stuff.

What's your favorite punk group?

Buzz Cox, 999, and a few others.

Now we've come right up to date.

What do think is going to be seen in the next couple vertical competitions?

There's going to be a lot more tricks at the next Hester. I don't know about the Pipeline Hester. Pipeline's going to separate the men from the boys for sure. The average skater's not going to be pulling off all their slide tricks and stuff in there. Unless they're going to be skating there everyday, like we're going



Critical cornering in Upland's new pool.

to be doing. Strople's going to move up here again and gonna be doing sessions. I'm friends with Strople. We're going to have some rad sessions.

Who then, right now in the sport, would you say you most respect as a fellow skater?

I like the way Strople skates, and Pineapple, Olson, Kimbel — he's a good all-around skater. Dunlap's getting it together again, finally. I lost respect for the guy for a while, but now he's starting to get hot.

So it helps you to skate with Scott and other people who're pushin'?

Yeah. People I skate with most right now are Scott, my little brother, and Marty. Marty Carter's a good dude — I respect that guy.

What do you think about rollerskaters in vertical pools?

I think it's pretty hot. Fred Blood, Marty, Hawthorne, those are the guys I really respect the most. I think it'd be neat to be a top rollerskater and skateboarder at the same time.

Have you ever tried rollerskating?

Just in a rink, couple years back.

You have no desire to try it in a bowl?

No, I'd probably kill myself.

Now that we're doing this interview, you know people have said that the pro skaters are all rats, punks, wise-ass babies . . . What would you like to say to all the people since you are a pro skater? What does it feel like, what do you have to go through as a pro, and why do some skaters act as they do?

It's pretty neat, you know, 'cause most people respect you. They look up to you like we look at a movie star or something. It's neat to have people come up to you and say, "Hi, can we have your autograph?" That makes you feel really good. The other things I don't really worry about. I'm sure I'm a smart-ass sometimes, but I don't try to make a habit of it. Some people are just totally unfair with skaters; they think they're out causing trouble all the time — that's just not true.

Do you think that we'll ever get skateboarding into middle America and accepted since right now skateboarding is not a fad anymore? What views do you have on that possibility?

I hope it would be accepted; that would be really neat. There's so many people getting into it right now, even other countries like in Europe and Japan — they're getting into it, I hear. I think the CBS coverage can help a lot too. They're going to show the whole United States what skateboarding is all about . . . it's just not a little kid's sport. That there's really professional guys going out and working out everyday, who make a living off of it. It's hard to make a living off of skateboarding.

Right now you're riding your own Steve Alba model. Why did you pick that form instead of something else? Your K-Beam is really unique. Did you have much say-so about the board that was made for you?

Yeah, a little bit. I helped experiment with it. I'm always experimenting with different types of wood, and boards, wheels and trucks — the whole thing. The board itself is the strongest board out on the market. The only thing wrong with it is the tail. For me, like the average pro skater, I'll thrash it in a couple weeks. But for the average kid who's going out to skate everyday, it'd be a hard board to break. It's a good board, though . . . it looks nice, and it's really constructed well. It's light, it's strong.

Are you surprised at how well it's been selling for you?

Yeah. I thought it'd sell decently, but not as good as it is. I'm sure the construction of it makes it sell a lot better.

You're not afraid that if you don't win every contest, that your board won't sell?

I don't know if people expect that of me. You don't have to do good in contests just to prove yourself. You can be a rad skater and show up at a contest and blow it; yet somewhere else, like photo sessions or something, you can be totally rad. Contests prove something, but they don't prove all that much. They prove that you're a good competitor, but you can still be a good skater without going to contests.

Do you look forward to traveling to other states to contests?

That's pretty fun. I still miss home, sometimes. But it's fun going away — it's like a vacation. It's a blast — you get rowdy and stuff.

Does this make it hard in school for you — being away so much?

It did last year. This year I totally concentrated on school, because skateboarding don't last, you definitely need to go to school. I'm one of the few pro skaters that goes to school still and skates, and I did business. This year I was getting A's and B's.

Is there any place you want to skate that you haven't yet?

I'd like to go to Cherry Hill and Apple Hill — that's in Ohio, I guess, Cleveland or something. I want to check that place out. I look forward to going up to Winchester again. I hope they have another contest there so I can get revenge!

Do you think the Northern California skaters are underrated as opposed to Southern California skaters?

Yeah. Some of the northern guys are really hot. I don't know if Blackhart skates anymore, but there's some rad skaters out of there.

Who's the best skater you've seen

from another country?

Maybe that guy from New Zealand. I don't know, I think Boronsky's pretty rad. He came out and skated here for awhile at Upland. He's a good skater, really aggressive.

Aggressive — you mentioned that several times. How does one become aggressive?

You've just got to go and tear it up. Can't be scared of falling. Just gotta go for it and go for it 'til you make it. Like if you hang up on a kickturn or something and make it, "boy, that's rad!" That's aggressive.

There's a lot of East Coast skaters coming out, what do you think about East Coast as opposed to the West Coast?

We're definitely better. The only people I've seen that really look good to me are Gelfand, McGill, Red (McCranials). The East Coasters are always bragging, "we're radical." Why don't they come to some of our contests and prove themselves? That's what I'd like to see — that'd just blow 'em away even more.

Do things like Alan's Ollie pops command a lot of respect — does a skater get a lot of respect for creating a trick that's so different, it would take a long time for people to adapt to it — or do you just feel like it's another trick?

It's just another trick. I respect the guy, you know, it's a rad trick. You don't see that many people doing it nowadays.

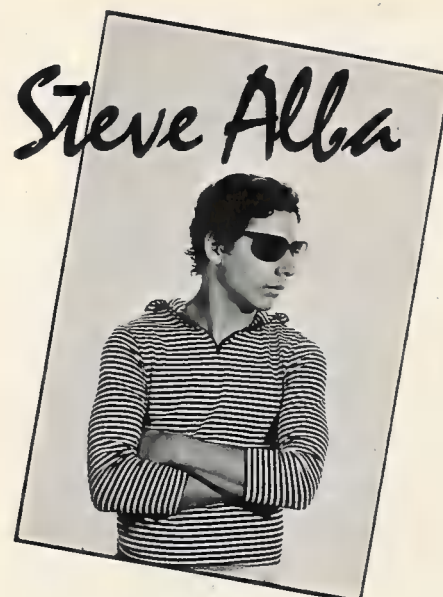
There's only a handful of people who can do it right now. Seems to me like East Coast skaters are really innovative, that's about it though. They come up with some really weird tricks.

How's Independent Trucks helped you out, since you've been with them pretty much ever since the start of Independent?

They've helped me out a lot. Their trucks are really good. The guy's totally into it for skateboarding. He's not into it for money. The guy's totally into helping the sport out and making good trucks that work. Some of these companies are just out to make a quick buck and this guy, Fausto, isn't out to do that. The guy is so mellow, he'll help you out, send you trucks and make improvements that you think are needed. He'll do anything just to make the trucks better. He's making a truck right now that hangs up less and it turns even better than the old ones. It's a really good truck.

Do you ever get the urge to try somebody else's product even though you're paid to ride something, like when a new product comes out?

Yeah, I pretty much do that. You've got to see what else is going on. Can't just ride one thing 'cause that's dumb. Gotta ride what works best for you. I've tried Tracker Trucks and some other wheels



and stuff and some of the wheels are really good . . . they're better than Kryptonics sometimes. It's just . . . there's always going to be a better product. That's the way I see it. You've just got to go out and try it, see if it works. Like when something else does work good, you go to the company you're riding for and they try to improve their product.

Do you feel when you go into a contest and you know your equipment isn't as good as the next guy's, and you're being sponsored by that equipment, do you feel it's your right in order to have a chance to win to use whatever you can in the way of equipment and make it happen?

Definitely! My boards and the trucks I ride, there's nothing to worry about, 'cause I know there's not that many better. The only thing that really worries me is the wheels. Like at Del Mar, I wasn't going to ride Kryptonics. I had some greens and they were slow and they had flat-spots; I broke one in half, so I was going to ride Wings or something. But they got me some more wheels, so I was in there. They got me some really fast blues.

But you feel that if it didn't work in order for you to win, you would have ridden Wings or any other brand wheel?

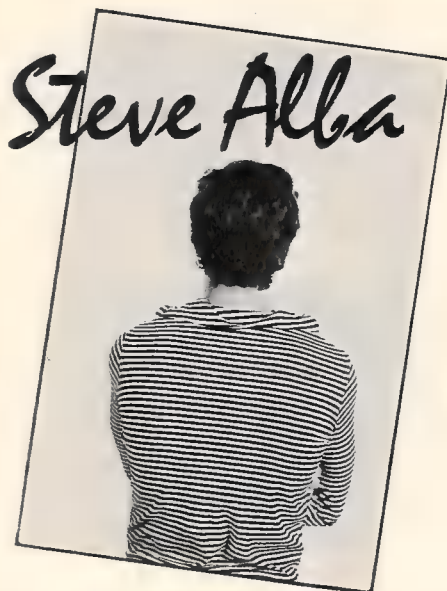
Yeah, I would've ridden the fastest wheels I could get my hands on . . . the best equipment that's right for me.

Do you think they would be upset or they would understand?

I wouldn't worry about it. If they got upset, I'd just tell them they have to make a better product.

Have you ever had any desire to do any other kind of things like downhill or slalom racing?

I'm getting into big slalom. I really dig that. It's fun. You don't hurt yourself as bad as bowl riding. You get scrapes,



but you don't break any bones or get hippers.

If they had a contest for money in big slalom, would you go for it?

I'm not really into it for money. I'm still into it for the fun of it. In skateboarding, there's so many different planes you can take it. It's really a neat feeling to go out and learn new tricks and stuff. And big slalom you can go fast, that's what I like about that. I've been at the one at Runway and the one at Del Mar and really had a blast.

What are you going to do with the money that you've made so far?

I'm saving it right now. I'm going to buy a car. I'll put it in a bank, buy a house or something when I get older. Save it for future use.

So you don't have to live off of it right now, not spending very much money?

No, not that much. I spend the money I get from Independent. They send me money every other week and that's what I live on. Plus my mom and dad still help me out, but I'm buying pretty much my own stuff. Still going to school. If I need money that bad, I'll go get a job.

Do you think you could still be a competitive skater and have a regular job?

I'm sure you could, you could find time. But I'm not going to get a regular job unless I have to right now.

Skateboarding, family and school — that's about all that matters right now.

Have you ever thought about a future after skateboarding?

Yeah, a carpenter or plumber. You can't go without those guys. There'll always be houses, toilets and stuff (laughing).

What do you think about protective equipment? At one time you didn't wear it.

You've got to wear it. I don't feel comfortable without it. When I first started I'd never wear equipment, that's why I have so many scars on my body

right now. Since I've been wearing equipment, I don't get hurt as much, or don't get hurt at all, just get scrapes.

You should always wear your equipment, no matter how good you are, because you never know when you're going to fall.

Does it make it easier when you're trying new tricks?

Yeah, it gives you a little bit more confidence. When you're going for something, you know you're not going to hurt yourself.

But you feel that the injuries you can get in skateboarding are no more dangerous than you can get in other sports?

For sure. People think it's a dangerous sport. It's not that dangerous, once you learn how to stand on a skateboard and have your balance. But you've got to know what you're doing first.

How do you feel about insurance hassles that parks have with people suing?

It's ruining the sport a little bit. It gets out in public, about one guy getting hurt somewhere and people suing. But you don't find that many cases of people getting hurt in parks.

You feel that it's usually unjust, somebody's just looking to make a quick buck?

Yeah. That's all people are doing nowadays. I don't think that's right.

Do you think the stories about tearing up hotels and rowdiness and girls and all that are really true, or do you think it's something the magazines kind of play up?

Some of it's true, some of it isn't. The magazine gets into it. We've had some pretty rad times. Like Newark, we terrorized that hotel pretty neat. Had a big ol' water fight, but we shouldn't have done it. Still pretty fun though. McIntyre started it all, I think.

Besides all the rowdiness, I'm sure that you've heard, read and seen drinking and drugs being used. What do you feel about that part?

Not that many people get high, there's only a handful. That's another thing people think about skateboarders. "Oh, they're loadies and getting high and taking drugs." That isn't true. I'm not into drugs, but I get drunk now and then. I never skate high, skate drunk or nothing.

Would you ever consider doing a doubles routine with your brother?

I don't know. Maybe, maybe not.

What do you think about doubles in skateboarding?

It's a blast. Me and Olson have some pretty good doubles sessions. It's sort of dangerous though, you can hit head-on. When I skate doubles with somebody, I tell him, if we're going to be goin' head-on, we both go to our right, that way we're going to miss each other. It's real exciting though. I dig it.

Do you think there should be more doubles competition and more money involved?

Yeah, I think they should bring one-wheelers back too. I think the longest backside would be a rad contest. The longest frontside — that'd be hot. Or the longest rock 'n roll slide.

What do you feel about the magazine itself? What purpose do you think the magazine has for you and the sport?

It's helped out the sport a lot. People can look at it and see what the whole thing's about. Skateboarding's not just a kids' sport anymore. We try to make it a professional sport, and the magazine has helped quite a bit. If there was no magazine, it wouldn't be that big of a sport. All these kids and teenagers, even up to the 20-year-olds, are buying the magazine, so I'm sure they're selling millions of them.

How did the magazine affect you before you were a pro?

I looked at the people in it. You'd see somebody in the magazine, and you'd want to try to do what they're doing. I'm sure a lot of kids do that.

Have you noticed the younger guys coming up are as good or better than most of the guys when you started?

Yeah, the amateurs, they're really putting their butts on the line just for like — they're not gettin' paid, they get a board or some knee pads. They're not really stoked just to get that stuff. They're really hot, too. Good amateurs around.

Why do you think this new crop that's coming up is so hot?

'Cause I'm sure they want to beat all of us. I'm not going to let them though.

Think it has anything to do with more parks, better pools to learn on?

Yeah, there's some good parks being built, some good pools, and that really helps a lot. An amateur's going to go out there everyday and maybe practice as much as a pro, just to get as good.

What's the future of Skateboarding and where do you fit in that future?

I'm just going to practice more and get better. Enter more contests, just have a good time.

Is there anything that you want to tell America — the world — in regards to Skateboarding or yourself that you now have the opportunity to do and wouldn't have without this interview?

As far as advice, you've just got to practice everyday and eat good foods to build endurance. Just gotta do good in everything — you know, do good in school, too. Beyond that, I just want to say thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman for letting me skate at the Pipeline for free, and thanks to all my sponsors, including Rector who supply me with safety gear.

Oh yeah, just skate rad and listen to punk! 🎸

COMPETITION BRIEFS

CHELSEA BANKED SLALOM PRO

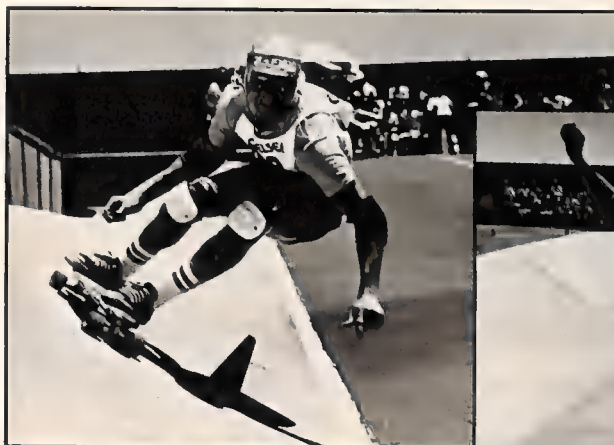
Heatwave Skatepark, Modesto, California

June 30, 1979

R.A.D. Productions put on this successful banked slalom with proceeds from spectator admissions going to the non-profit Greenpeace Foundation.

RESULTS:

	(min.)	
1. Joe Woodman	13.26	\$400
2. Dave Criddle	13.30	\$250
3. Tom Merrick	13.40	\$200
4. Robert Garrett	13.50	\$100
5. David Fisher	13.61	\$ 75
6. Anthony Fisher	13.62	\$ 50
7. Tim Marting	13.67	\$ 50
8. John Hutson	13.68	\$ 25
9. Steve Weston	13.72	\$ 25
10. Monty Montgomery	13.74	\$ 25



Focusing forward, Joe Woodman burned through the banked slalom course at Chelsea for 1st place.



Dave Criddle draws a tight line at Chelsea for a very close 2nd.

Photography by Ted Terrebbonne.

U.C. BERKELEY SKATEBOARD/ROLLERSKATE CONTEST

May 20, 1979

Located on the U.C. Berkeley campus, this competition centered around a ramp riding event (20 ft. high with 12 ft. of transition and 8 ft. of true vertical), and also employed small launch ramps for an unusual "jump slalom" competition.

SKATEBOARD RESULTS:

Ramp riding
16 and over

1. Curtis Vick
2. Jim Martino

15 and under

1. Scott Foss
2. John Garcia

Downhill

1. John Hutson
2. Gary Furnish

Jump Slalom
15-17

1. Dave Criddle
2. Joe Woodman

Freestyle

- 11-14
1. Curtis Bryant
2. Jim Thornburg

15-17

1. Ray Meyer
2. Tony Guerrero

18 and over

1. Rocko
2. Dan Ewell

Slalom

15-17

1. Dave Criddle
2. Joe Woodman

14-15

1. Curtis Bryant

Dave Criddle was able to get a good jump on the competition, taking top honors in the Jump Slalom. Berkeley.

John Hutson speed tucks into 1st place in the Downhill. Berkeley.

Scott Foss, high marks in the Ramp event. Berkeley.





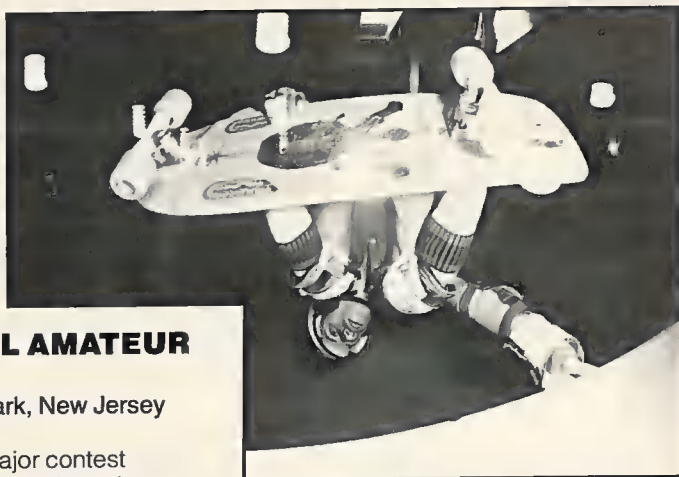
Steve Fisher took 2nd in the half pipe (15-17) with gnarly edgers and extended aerals.

Photography by Glen Friedman



Winner in the Pool and Half Pipe events (11-14 age group), Mike McGill flew up from Florida and continued to fly high during the competition.

Third place in the Pool event (11-14), Ray Diez compensated for a few falls with hot layback aerals.



Jamie Godfrey executes a compressed invert on his way to 2nd place in the 11-14 division.



"Ollie" Gelfand (1st, 15-17) in elevated form above Cherry Hill's half pipe.

Kevin Cook plants himself firmly in the upper echelon at Cherry Hill, taking 1st in the 15-17 division.



CHERRY HILL AMATEUR CONTEST

Cherry Hill Skatepark, New Jersey
June 23-24, 1979

Cherry Hill's first major contest attracted skaters throughout the Eastern states, from Massachusetts to Florida. Teams represented included Flite, G&S, Kryptonics, Powell-Peralta, Sundancer, Yo Yo and others.

According to photographer Glen Friedman, what resulted "may have been some of the hottest amateur skating ever in the East!"

WINNERS:

Pool

10 & under — Marc McLane

11-14 — Mike McGill (Powell)

15-17 — Kevin Cook (Kryptonics)

18 & over — Steve Anderson
(Kryptonics)

Half Pipe

10 & under — Marc McLane

11-14 — Mike McGill (Powell)

15-17 — Alan Gelfand (Powell)

18 & over — Steve Anderson
(Kryptonics)

Half Pipe Doubles

Alan Gelfand & Steve Fisher

Freestyle

10 & under — Dean Godfrey

11-14 — Mike McGill (Powell)

15-17 — Stewart Singer (Donel)

18 & over — Bob Asthon

Banked Slalom

10 & under — Marc McLane

11-14 — Ray Diez (Kryptonics)

15-17 — Stewart Singer (Donel)

One-Wheelers

10 & under — Dean Godfrey, 29
in 1 min.

11-14 — Mike McGill (Powell), 35
in 1 min.

15-17 — Kevin Cook (Kryptonics), 36
in 1 min.

18 & over — Dan Murray (Kryptonics),
28 in 45 sec.



Steve Anderson showed his mettle during a practice session, cutting loose a bionic over-vertical rock 'n' roll.



ALL AMERICAN AMATEUR SERIES — SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The newly formed All American Amateur Series (AAAS) held its first two contests this summer at Skatopia and Pomona Pipe and Pool on June 23 and July 14, respectively. A cooperative effort between the International Skateboard Association and the National Exploring Division, B.S.A., this program was developed to provide a "worthwhile young adult skating program resulting in good character, citizenship and fitness." The Series will likewise promote the organization of Skating Explorer Posts at the skateparks, a concept which SKATEBOARDER Magazine, and principal AAAS sponsors, Vans and Off Shore, whole-heartedly endorse.

WINNERS — SKATOPIA

Girls 10 & under

Heather Hall (C & D)

Girls 14 & over

Elaine Poirer (Vans)

Boys 10 & under

Kele Rosecrans (Vans)

Boys 11-13

Dale Arden

Boys 14-15

Teddi Bennett (Vans)

Boys 16-19

Freddie DeSota (Big O)

Men 20 & over

Brian Martin (Sims)

Overall Teams

Vans	21
Variflex	19
Sims	14

WINNERS —

POMONA PIPE & POOL

Girls 13 & under

Carabeth Burnside (Powerflex)

Girls 14 & over

Elaine Poirer (Vans)

Boys 10 & under

Beatle Rosecrans (Vans)

Boys 11-13

Mike Smith (Hobie)

Men 14-15

Mike Ziegfried (Variflex)

Men 16-19

Kevin Moore (Hobie)

Men 20 & over

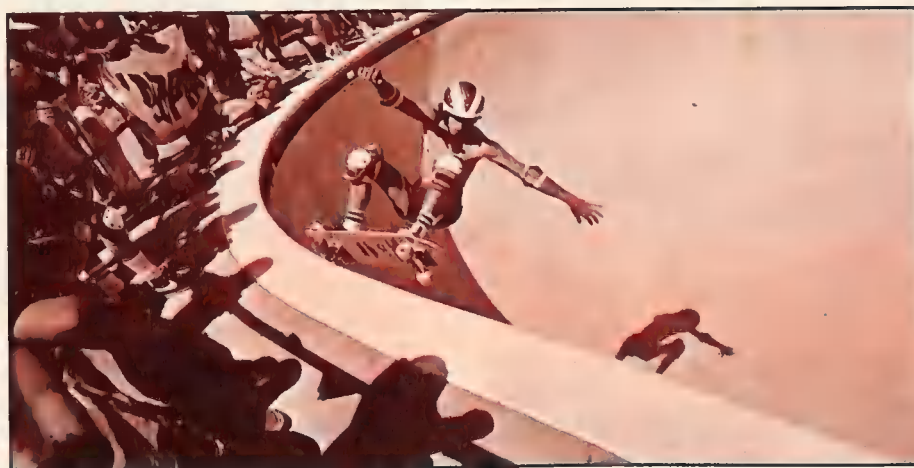
Rusty Morris (Variflex)

Overall Teams

Vans	40
Powerflex	34
Variflex	32



Photography by John Ker



NORTHWEST CHALLENGE CUP

This series is being played out between four Northwest skateparks on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border: Olympia's Olympia Skateboard Park (Washington), Kennewick's Tri-Cities Skatepark (Washington), Skate World in Burnaby, Vancouver (B.C.), and Saanich Skateboard Park in Victoria (B.C.).

WINNERS:

Olympia — July 6, 1979

Beginners

Mike Yee (Burnaby)

Intermediate

John Montecucco (Olympia)

Expert

Kyle Kinney (Kennewick)

Victoria — July 21, 1979

Beginners

Graham McLean (Victoria)

Intermediate

Glen Miller (Victoria)

Expert

Tim Johnson (Victoria)

The level of skating currently being displayed on the AAAS circuit is "amateur" in name only. (Pictured) Hot moves in Skatopia's new pool.

by Benito S.

STUCK IN COPENHAGEN WITH GOTHENBURG BLUES

"Hello, operator. Speak English? . . .
Could you connect me with Eurocana?
It's a skateboard business in
Stockholm."

"Peter, that you?"

"Yeah, I was just going to pick you
guys up at the airport . . . how was
your trip?"

"Well, we're not in Sweden. We're
stuck in Denmark . . . airline
supervisor's strike . . . people have
been stranded here all morning. It's
crazy . . . about 90 degrees, heavy
humidity and nobody seems to know
when this thing will break! I guess
Copenhagen is infamous for this kind of
thing . . . I know it's a long drive from
Stockholm to Gothenburg and you
have to set up for the Championships.
Go ahead and leave without us. If we
can locate our bags, we'll take the train
from here to Gothenburg. See you
there — I hope!"

Minutes later I'm back with star
photographer and my traveling
companion, King James. He is sitting
atop his metal camera case,
looking dazed.

"Well, James, we're on our own now.
Let's try to get our bags."

Downstairs we encounter a young
apprentice airline official at a window
marked "Closed" in three or four
different languages.

"Hi, speak English?"

"Ya, a little bit . . ."

"We're journalists with a big
American magazine doing a story on
Europe. Naturally, we'd like to present
this country and the airport in the best
possible light. If we could only get our
bags. . ."

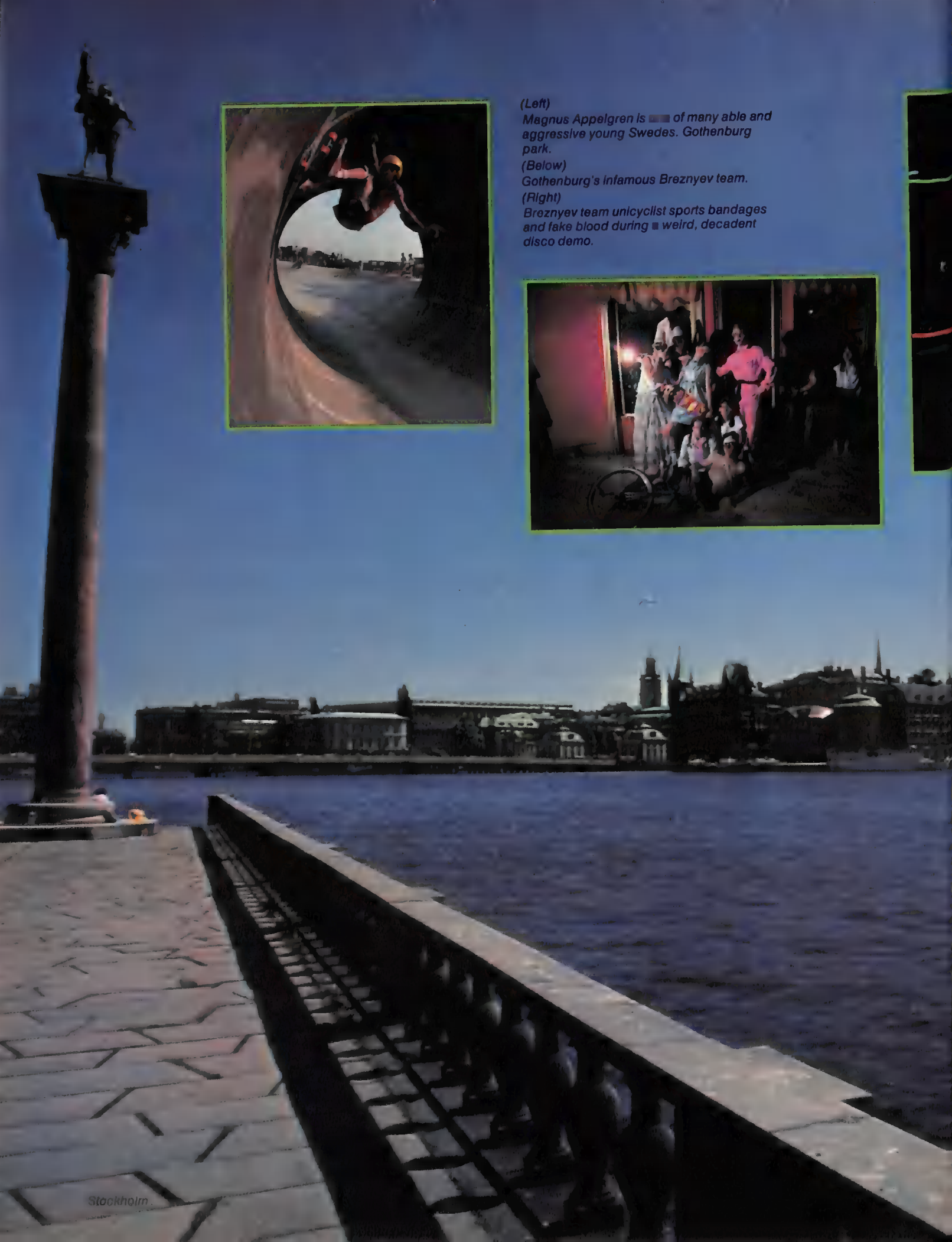
"Sorree, dere's reelie noting I can do
. . ."



*Stockholm's Gunnar Omrbom seemingly
embodied Sweden's lust for skating.
Gothenburg Championships.*

Travels With The King

PART I

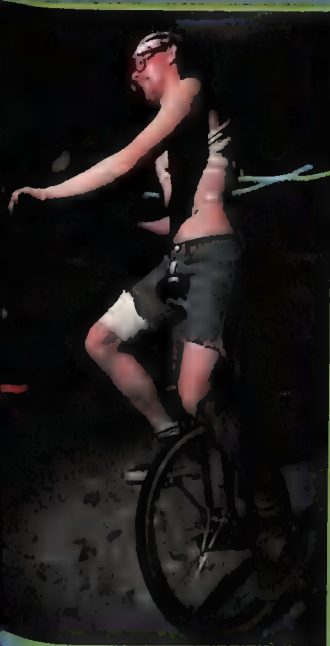


(Left)
Magnus Appelgren is one of many able and aggressive young Swedes. Gothenburg park.

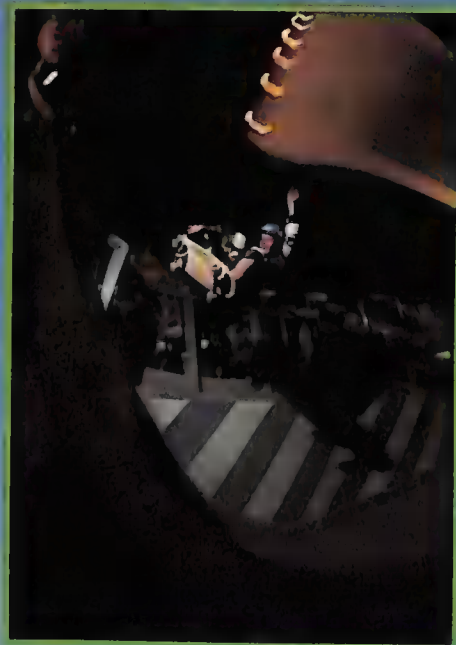
(Below)
Gothenburg's infamous Breznev team.

(Right)
Breznev team unicyclist sports bandages and fake blood during a weird, decadent disco demo.





(Below)
New Sport House local Tony Magnusson
proved ■ much respected leader among
Sweden's young skate elite.
(Right)
The much-lauded New Sport team.





New Sport House premier performer Par
Wynd: Steelhead

In desperation I present a mutilated "Official SKATEBOARDER Press Card," and the guy lights up.

"Ya, ya. I like skateboard . . . I see what I can do."

After a few minutes, he returns grim-faced. "Sorree, your bags are already on da next plane to Stockholm. You should try to be on dat plane when da strike ends . . . good luck!"

On our way back upstairs, we are accosted by a female airport security officer at a baggage x-ray checkpoint. She keeps barking something at us in Danish.

"Speak English?" I plead.

She continues ranting in Danish.

Not to be outdone, I resort to my trusty Spanish, "Otra vez? . . . No lo intiendo!" For some reason, this tactic works and she waves us through.

"Gracias y cuidado con el ganado!" I bid in gratitude.

Back upstairs we encounter two Swedish skaters who we learn had been living in the San Francisco-Berkeley area and are also in transit to Stockholm. Their English and their advice is extremely welcomed.

"Our only chance is to make a run for that first flight out," one suggests. "It's open seating."

Within an hour, word comes. The plane to Stockholm is leaving from a gate on the *other side* of the airport. Seconds later, King James is doing a 4-minute mile with his 15-pound camera case in hand. James leads a mad throng of about fifty, but arrives at the gate a few minutes later to find a line already forming ahead. Eventually we receive the go-ahead and snag seats in the rear of the 727. It was our first few hours in Denmark — Europe, for that matter — and we were finally breathing easy.

DOING THE TIME WARP

Gothenburg, site of the Eurocana — European Championships, is a major seaport and the second largest city in Sweden. The well-kept downtown area is noted for its wide, tree-lined boulevards, busy sidewalk cafes and vacation atmosphere, especially during the summer months. Unfortunately, after being up 24 hours, which included an all-night milk train run from Stockholm to Gothenburg, we aren't feeling very festive on the morning of day two. We sneak an hour nap in the hotel room of Peter's partner, Goran, and then it's off to the contest area at Gothenburg's (and Sweden's for that matter) first outdoor skatepark.

Upon our arrival we find the work crew is just finishing the surface of an asphalt snake-type run, in what looks to be a first generation park. However, a second glance reveals a cement half-bowl and adjoining 20-foot full pipe

with plywood forms still in place. On the other side of the pipe is a large partially-formed pool. The park owner and workmen are soon quizzing us on current California ratios of flatwall to vertical, and the ever knowledgeable King graciously complies by sketching Upland's ultra-modern square/round pool in the dirt.

Minutes later we are introduced to Alan Williams and his on-site trailer, which we quickly adopt as our crash pad and general base of operations. Alan, an Englishman and editor of Sweden's multi-sport DARE DEVIL Magazine, agrees to take us to lunch and on a brief tour of the city, since the actual competition doesn't start until tomorrow. Gunnar (pronounced "Gooner"), Alan's young friend and a hot vertical rider, accompanies us. With his blond ringlets, broken slang-ridden English, and frequent jokes, he seems Sweden's answer to the Dead End Kids.

Back at the park, we get a feel for what to expect the next day. If not a credible "European championship," due to a lack of non-Swedish entries, the contest, nonetheless, looks to be a serious affair. The best of the flatland slalomers and freestylers appear to be of international caliber or close. They practice hard despite a 90 degree afternoon sun (the beginnings of a early summer heat spell which we are accused of bringing with us). The level of intensity and enthusiasm among these raw competitors provokes *deja vu* images of the Southern California contest scene, circa 1975. Remarks the King, "We've definitely been here before."

That evening, we are joined for dinner by the Eurocana crew and their versatile main man, Mike Weed. Mike is in Sweden doing demos for the company and seems to be making the same kind of impression on local skaters that Ed Nadalin did a summer before. We feast upstairs on a swank boat restaurant anchored in the channel just off Gothenburg's main drag. (Ingela, where are you?) We are also fortunate enough to be in eye's view of a popular nightly ritual which involves cruising the strip in vintage American automobiles. The eerie twilight summer night of this latitude affords us good vision. Classic convertibles, a Mustang and a Caddie, steal the show, while the rest are noted for the dedication of their owners (at \$3.50 per gallon). We eventually figure that maybe the predilection for the American gas-guzzler isn't so illogical when a new Saab rounds the corner below us and the driver gets out just as it bursts into flames. A sizeable crowd gathers for the occasion as the hulk burns to a crisp, long before the local fire fighters catch on.



"We had definitely been here before!" Third place finisher in a squatting nose wheelie.



The Swede freestylers displayed a full repertoire of kick-flips. Championship runner-up.

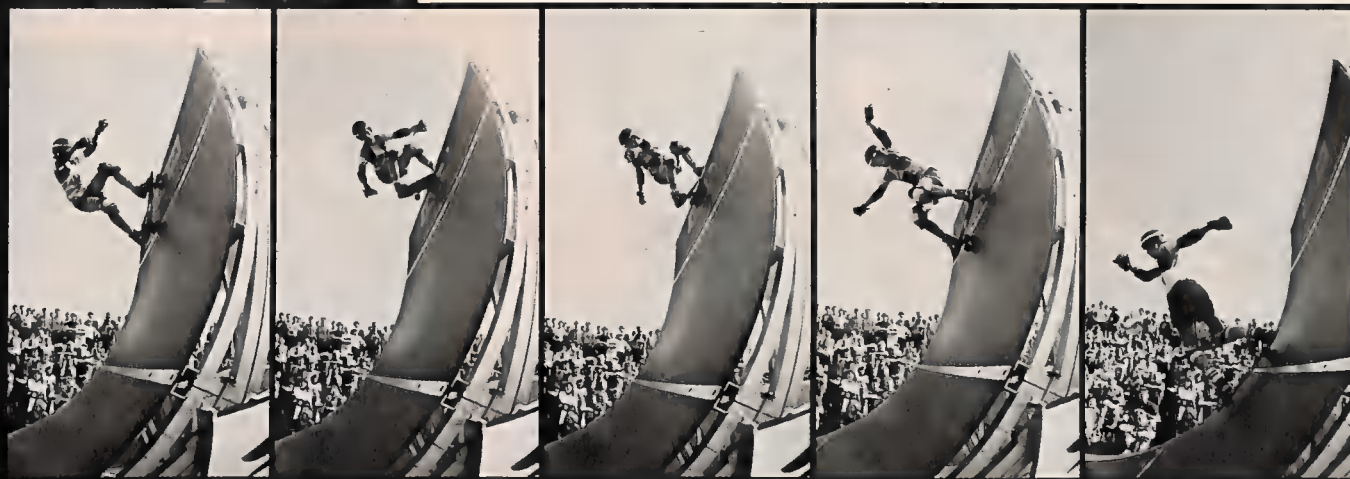


Welinder manages a popular board spin.



(Left)
Tobba Stenstrom takes flight off a popular suburban Stockholm halfpipe.

(Below)
Gothenburg's rock 'n roll wiz kid, Andres Brandeby, was unparalleled in his agile assault on the contest ramp.



ON NERD PATROL WITH GUNNAR

Due to problems with the electric timing system (yes, we had definitely been here before!), the championships open with freestyle rather than slalom. A young Finnish skater with strong kick-flips, shows just how quickly the sport has progressed in his country from its introduction last summer. A local freestylister, Per Welinder, comes through with an amazing combination of agility, composition and advanced tricks, including a handstand shove-it kick-flip. And a Frenchman named Miguel proves a bizarre blend of comedian and strip-tease artist as he manages to lose a knee pad and his bicycle helmet while throwing, and often missing, numerous DT-style slides.

Ramp riding, the following event, is dominated by a Gothenburg resident, Andres Brandeby, who has his tittering rock 'n rolls down pat. Alan Williams, however, expresses disappointment that so few hot locals entered due to the "lack of quality of the ramp." Gunnar is another Swede who makes the most of the half-pipe and rips. Afterward he looks exceedingly nonchalant among his smiling, giggling female admirers.

The slalom postponed altogether until tomorrow, we return to our hotel for a swim in the pool, and Alan and Gunnar join us — Swedish-style (without swimsuits). A few hours later, a group of us are trekking through the heart of Gothenburg, hunting down a likely restaurant. Gunnar walks ahead of the troop, on "nerd patrol," in honor

of a recent Mellow Cat strip. We eventually choose a small side-street eatery, which nearly proves a false start when an unshaven, surf-punk-looking Alan is told by the management, "We don't allow intoxicated people in here!"

The highlight of the evening comes a few hours later when Alan leads us to an under-age-only disco. The Breznev team, a macabre group which includes two skateboarders, two roller-skaters and a unicyclist, consents to a command performance for the King. The all-male brigade, half of them in drag and the others with fake blood dripping down, transform a multi-mirrored disco chamber into Studio 54 meets the Mudd Club. The crowd seems to get off on it, too, despite criticism in a local newspaper over one member who has a habit of doing a can can routine without his under-things. At our departure, one of the members bids us goodbye and respectfully requests, "Give my regards to Dave Dash!" We figure D.D. couldn't relate.

WEED GETS THEM HIGH

The second and final morning of the contest, Mike Weed steals the show. Mike, who reportedly was on the verge of giving up pro skating just a month before, is in good form, displaying some of the lightning-quick footwork for which he is known. The flatland slalom event attracts an elite group of practitioners, among them a few who have given Skoldberg and Hutson a tough time on recent visits. They definitely have the wiggles down to an art form.

An unexpected, though pleasant,



(Left)
*Per Viking, hardcore tail tap amid urban
graphics. New Sport House, Stockholm.*



Definitely not a few of Gothenburg's finest!



*French contestant, Wildman Miguel,
showed extreme originality with this fackie
face plant.*

surprise comes with an announcement that a new item has been added to the agenda: The "Mike Weed Pipe Event," as it is called, moves the competition to the new full pipe, with the contestants going for height. After about 30 runs in the slightly kinked cylinder, the field is narrowed to two: Gunnar and a local Gothenburg skater. Since Gunnar is from Stockholm, on the opposite coast of the country, a regional rivalry ensues. This feeling is magnified when Gunnar yells "This is for Stockholm!" before one of his crucial runs. The final marks are close between the two skaters, but as judge Weed sees it, Gunnar takes it by a hair. It is a fitting end to the Championships and our relationship with Gunnar, who, on the spur of the moment, decides to take off with a couple of unwary French contestants to see how *their* parks match up.

That afternoon we too are on the road. Peter at the wheel of his race Volvo, with Mike and Peter's girlfriend along, we are cruising at 90 m.p.h. plus toward Stockholm. The countryside is green and lush, the extensive pine forests interspersed with meadows and small villages. Halfway along we stop at Peter's grandmother's to catch the news coverage on one of two existing channels, both government owned. The sequence shows highlights from the contest, with quick and slow motion cuts set to rock music. The finalists are eventually announced, the overall effect being that skateboarding is treated like any other important sport. The Swedes are evidently as liberal and progressive-minded as we have been led to believe.

CAPITAL MOVES

Our arrival in Stockholm lands us in a hotel within striking distance from downtown landmarks, restaurants, and shops. In fact, that evening our group visits an exclusive bar, where Peter demonstrates his local "pull" as we walk right in ahead of a frustrated mob. It's definitely *the* place to be seen in this capital city for artists, entertainers, intellectuals and other in-crowd types . . . and, yes, the Swedish beauty is no myth!

The next morning we occupy ourselves with the Scandinavian Windsurfing Championships. Over 250 hearty souls compete this year, in what is probably the current fastest-growing sport in Europe. Unfortunately, the breeze today is minimal to non-existent, making subtleties in technique all-important. However, what this cult lacks in action, they make up for in flare. With surf music blaring on the beach and the crew decked out in Hawaiian shirts and mirror sun glasses, not to mention a few lithe ladies tastefully unclad, it looks like a scene

from "Gidget Goes to Stockholm."

That afternoon we come across a more intense scene at a ramp on the outskirts of the city. We also begin hearing about two of the area's top vertmen: Per Viking (hmmm, another Per?), and Tony Magnusson. The next day, we catch the real thing at New Sport House, Stockholm's only indoor skatepark.

New Sport, as the locals call it, was built last summer when skateboarding first hit big in Sweden. In a discussion that morning with the owner, Alf Eriksson, he explains that the converted theater was conceived to be a "total, human environment," thus accounting for the elaborate wall graphics. Painted by Swedish artist Joakim Mansen, the murals range from ocean surfing scenes to New York skyline panoramas, with a few bizarre, other worldly skate characters thrown in. (See "Extra" last issue.) The sound, video and lighting system, manipulated by a control booth overlooking the skating, is also in keeping with the elaborate and sophisticated approach.

The least impressive aspect, as might be expected by the vintage of the park, is the skating terrain. Consisting of plywood ramps and a bowl, it is generally too tight and restrictive by present-day standards. However, Per, Tony, and a few others on hand today, still manage some advanced moves, including inverts. Per, in particular, is a standout, his electric hair and hyper demeanor the perfect compliment to his all-out skating style. The guy definitely runs on nervous energy! For example, while working his way up a very narrow, 20-foot pipe ramp, he unconsciously fidgets with his wrist strap. Later, while discussing his Viking lineage (he insists he's full-blooded), Per grabs my pen and starts banging it on the table, all the time twitching from side to side. Too much American junk food we figure!

Later that evening, during a slow-motion sunset, we feast on the porch of Goran's island summer home in the Stockholm archipelago; and, in turn, are feasted on by a hearty Swedish breed of killer mosquitoes. Deciding this is a most inauspicious way to go, the group vigorously moves indoors to discuss the state of the sport. After concluding that Eurocana, who is currently selling skateboard equipment, organizing contests and sponsoring demos and summer skate camps, should step forward and take over the reigns of international skating, We figure it's time to move on and spread goodwill elsewhere. Besides, we have skaters waiting for us in Central Europe and a 24-hour train ride ahead, which promises to be an adventure in itself . . . ☺



Per Welinder and fellow freestyle finalists.



The RoRo team boasts some of Sweden's top slalomers.



Slalom winners at Gothenburg.



Kevin Moore

**18 years old, rides for
Hobie Skateboards**



(Above)
A top-rated Southern California amateur vertical competitor with cycle racing background? Kevin, here pulling off a layback aerial, has made it a logical progression.
(Opposite page)
"Perhaps the strongest, most consistent skater on the amateur circuit . . ." Invert, Pomona.

Three years ago Kevin Moore was the N.M.A. California state motorcycle racing champion with no interest in skateboarding. And then, fire destroyed his home, taking his motorcycle with it and, needless to say, a lot of changes came down. Today Kevin is perhaps the strongest, most consistent skater on the amateur circuit, with no regrets in his new-found diversion.

Having grown up in the area of the Badlands, Kevin owes an early debt of gratitude to local surf shop owner Bruce Jogel. Bruce saw to it that Kevin had all the equipment he needed during his formative period. Surrounded by some of the strongest skate talents of the time, he quickly

adapted the balance and coordination gained from cycle racing to the walls of local pools and parks.

In late 1977 he entered his first contest (which was at Upland) and made a strong impression on his peers with a 5th place. Though some were quick to write off this success as just another case of a local ripping his home park, Kevin soon went on to place in many contests elsewhere. Then in 1979 he began winning or at least placing in every contest in the "Big 5" competitions, ending up with a 1st in overall points for that important series.

Kevin has a casual, unassuming attitude which is reflected in his smooth, easy style. Still, there is nothing easy in his skating and he is well within the grasp of a pro career, though he's in no hurry. As he figures it, "Most people think that if you win a contest or two, that you should go pro, but I want to have a good contest record and experience behind me first."

Currently riding for Hobie, Kevin is using a new wide prototype board with Independent Trucks and Conical Claws wheels.

Besides good equipment, riding a good skating surface is also a top priority for Kevin. "When putting on an amateur contest, the promoters should go out and check the park's design and surface first before setting up a competition. The amateurs should be given the same consideration the pros get. After all, they will be the pros next year."

His East Los Angeles home is relatively close to most all his favorite skating grounds, with Pomona, Whittier, Marina Del Rey and Del Mar on his list as most shreddible. Kevin has skated with nearly every top pro in the field, but is quick to narrow down his favorites to Chris Strople and Stacy Peralta. Local Badland talents Eric Carlston, Mark Baker (USA), and Pat Allen are considered by Kevin to be strong up-and-coming skaters in the amateur circuit.

Kevin's approach to skating, originally the outgrowth of the aggressive, yet loose, cycle racing style, has helped separate him from other top skaters. And although it was through no original design of his own, he is stoked with the way things have turned out, and sees his current accomplishments as only a beginning.

—Jim Goodrich





Per Welinder

17 years old, rides for Eurocana Test Team



Per phases through an amazing, often flawless freestyle routine.

"We didn't know who the guy was . . . he just exploded onto the scene and wiped us all away," commented a freestyle competitor in the European Open Championships held in Gothenburg, Sweden, last June. Per Welinder had just breezed through the contest and taken home an undisputable 1st place. Yet, despite winning a prestigious event in a skate-crazed country, Per has definitely not got his head up in the clouds nor does he have his sight blinded by visions of "skate stardom." He accepts making the Who's Hot spot as calmly as making a double kick flip — to him it is merely the recognition he deserves, recognition for hundreds of hours of training and dedication to the sport. "I had been practicing nearly every day for the last three months to

be ready for that competition . . . I didn't want to leave anything to chance; I really like to have my routine working well." The many hours of training paid off in Per's case, but only due to the fact that he had the ability there in the first place.

Having skated for 18 months, Per has partaken in only three competitions. The first was a slalom contest (SKATEBOARDER Vol. 5#10) where he came in a respectable 18th, while the second was an amateur freestyle event where Per swept the board clean with a strong first place. After that win he disappeared for nearly four months until he came back to the center of the Swedish skate scene and won the European Championships in Gothenburg. Per's low profile has been an important ingredient in his success, partly due to his tough training program and partly because of his secluded training grounds. "Out here where I live it is nicely isolated, which gives me a good chance of practicing without anybody spying on me. Consequently, some of my moves surprise people.

"I skate a lot with my friend Hasse, and together we work on perfecting moves and finding new tricks to brighten up my routine. I usually start my training sessions by working my way through the five basic aspects of a good freestyle routine, which are kick flips, inverted moves, spins, wheelies and footwork. After practicing these five groups I then continue with a good work-out to music." It's a very intense training program and one that gets results.

Mike Weed, who was in Europe for a couple of months last spring and summer, had this to say about Per: "Since I have been here, Per has improved a great deal. He has learned very fast and I would place him amongst the top ten amateur freestylers in the states."

Due to his outstanding win in Gothenburg, Per has taken up a good position working for Eurocana as a coach in Sweden's first Summer Skateboard camp. The camp, which also has on staff skate personalities such as Bob Skoldberg, Ed Nadelin and Mike Weed, offers the experience of top skaters to the young skate-stoked Swedes. Per fully supports this concept: "The future of skateboarding here in Sweden depends on training camps such as these to stimulate interest and keep the sport alive . . ."

Per explains that his hardest trick to date is the 180° hand stand kick-flip, which he says "requires an enormous amount of concentration." Per realizes the importance of also having his body in "top form" if he intends to ever be recognized as a force within skateboarding.

Per's choice of skate equipment likewise reflects his growing confidence in himself. For equipment he until recently has been using his own board design. Having worked very well for him, he is currently looking for a reliable manufacturer to market the board. However, since becoming part of the Eurocana Test Team, he has had the opportunity to ride a selection of "name" boards. Apart from his own design, he prefers a "sawn-off Sausage," which is a board designed by Dale Smith of Hobie, the original Sausage being modified to suit Per's own taste! Haftraks and Sims Mini Comps make up the completed board. For ramp and park riding, he uses a Park Machine with Tracker Trucks, Hobie Claws. For his occasional slalom sessions, Per rides a Santa Cruz Hester model with A.C.S. Trucks and whatever wheels are working on the particular surface. A special board designed by Per, which is a 35"-long, wood and fiberglass laminate made especially for high jumps (and safe landings), completes his quiver.

Although Per is in school, he still finds time to skate nearly every day come rain or shine. "We have a favorite spot at a nearby underground railway station, where we train when it rains; the guards there usually chase us away but we keep going back." Together with some friends, Per has built a kickturn ramp which they have placed in a friend's driveway; the same area is used for practicing slalom and freestyle. It is here that you can find him most days training for a trip he is planning to the USA in the near future.

It will be interesting to see how Per gets along when confronted by some of America's top freestylers. When the opportunity comes, we can all be sure of noting some significant comparisons in style and technique. "The Americans are not as good as they are portrayed to be. I shall be staying at my relations in San Francisco later on in the year and from there I hope to travel around California and show everyone just how good a Swedish freestyler can be!"

—Alan Williams



OFF THE WALL

THE JOY OF GIVING DEPT.

As we ease on through the holidays, the serious skater finds himself or herself confronted with that age-old question: WHAT TO GIVE AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS? Now don't worry if you missed last year; remember it's never too soon or too late to give those certain someones exactly what they deserve for services rendered. OTW has been bombarded with cards and letters asking for gift-giving advice. Keeping in mind that President Carter has asked us all to "be less materialistic," our staff has come up with the ultimate X-mas tribute (and it's not bad for birthdays, weddings, graduations, bar mitzvahs and Easter tidings too). And best of all, it will not set you back one cent. Man, we're talking FREE! To gain this ultimate cheap thrill and still prove that you care about others all you've got to do is call (602) 638-2411 and ask for MERLE STITT. The scam is that Merle works at The Grand Canyon National Park where they're giving away free burros. All you've got to do is ask Merle and they'll give you some. The only problem is they don't deliver. But think about it, just skate over, pick one up and ride it home.

UNSOLICITED VISUAL INPUT DEPT.

We receive many curious visual documents from our loyal readers and other unpaid assassins who are kind enough to hip us to their trips. Some of them are so explosive that we could never get them onto our press run and through the re-entry phase intact. But rest assured, all of them are much appreciated and each ends up enshrined on our Skate Control Central Wall of Fame. King James is known to spend hours examining the many photos we receive, particularly the ones of girls. He claims to have a deep feeling for the art of their forms. In view of none of the above, OTW has decided to feature a couple of these stunning sociological statements.

Artifact No. One comes from "El Larry of Detroit" and it's proof positive. Yes, here it is on film for the first (and almost certainly last) time: The notorious and oft-scoffed-at Weaver way-lay-back coping stall. As you can imagine, the approach and the roll-in are almost as mind blowing as the lay back itself. When asked how he developed the move, Weaver just remarked, "Oh I ripped it off from Animal Lopez just before he ran off with Cher Allman to become a disco roller

star." We are fortunate to have this visual documentation of Weaver's "maximum move" as he only does it "once every six months or right after the last of the bandages comes off — whichever comes first."

Artifact No. Two comes to us from David Hills of Bellevue, Washington. It catches that infamous underground leader of the Soul Cruising movement, Blaine Dollord, doing what he does best. It was accompanied by a communique from the cruisers underground that asks "are you parking it more and enjoying it less? Well, then take it back to the streets where it all began." According to popular legend, Dollord practices his strokes nightly on a certain esoteric ten-mile downhill run.

DEATH TO DISCO, VOLUME TWO

Hey, we really didn't mean to start any trouble . . . but it seems Neil Bogaty, who claims to be a record mogul from some label we never even heard of (Calabasa Records?) took exception. Truth is, it sounds like the guy is out for our blood. On the phone the other day, Bogaty's executive secretary informed us that we were very backward sorts and that we were assuming a "counter productive attitude" in this very column. She also added that "Disco is the music of the future." Well, all we can say is that if Disco is the future, we don't want to go there. Neither do a lot of other people; why we received four smashed Donna Summer LP's in yesterday's mail alone. The absurdity of this all was further proven a few nights ago in La Jolla where Bad H, Lil' Buddy and the real Mellow Cat were jamming. As a joke, Bad Henry and the group were attempting to "play punk." After hours of ear-splitting failure, they gave up blaming Monsieur Cat for his inability to speed up and "pluck anything else besides essential high school Hendrix." After this debacle, M.C. was heard to mutter "so many of the New Wave are going permanent wave that it is becoming impossible to tell these pretenders from the other princes of polyester in Discoland." We'd agree, but like we said, we're really not trying to start any trouble . . .

YELLOW JOURNALISM DEPT.

Well, the gossip mongers are at it again. Recent "articles" in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *San Diego Union* have alluded to the "death" of skateboarding. To this our OTW staff counters . . . if skating is dead, then how come whenever we go riding, it's



Detroit Weaver in action!

SANTA ROSSA

Soul cruiser, Blaine Dollard.



HILLS

usually so crowded? These days it's hard to get a line to yourself with so many drop-in artists about. *Vogue* magazine, on the other hand, recently profiled the Marina Del Rey skate park, while *People* mag did a send up on rollerskating. *People* raved about 8-wheeling and those fab super skaters: Olivia, Mork, Cher, The Village People, Billie Jean, VFK VF, Warhol, Tanya, et al. As you undoubtedly surmised, no vertman were even mentioned. Once again the mass media goes for the gloss rather than reality. As for the *Journal* and *Union* . . . did you ever see a skater reading them? Of course not; pro or con the media mongrels generally go for whatever shoddy sensationalism will fill

their pockets with cash. At least *Vogue* featured some local talent and Ray Ogden. If you don't do it, don't write about it.

THE GUESS HIS MIDDLE NAME CONTEST — CONTINUED

While we're still getting hundreds of guesses regarding the Glen E. Friedman middle name contest, apparently our contest's namesake has had enough. Sources close to the enterprising lensman state G.E.F. is going to have his middle name legally dropped so that there will be no winners. Such a deal, . . . what can we say. It's amazing what lengths some people will go to keep something secret. Jim Goodrich thinks that Friedman is going to open up a photo school teaching his famous techniques in order to capitalize on all this sudden attention. We at OTW don't know what he's going to do and, frankly, we don't care. However, a hot tip from Mary Feldstein of Rochester, N.Y., says that the big "E" stands for Eastman. Yep, fans, as in Eastman-Kodak. Could it be that Five Fingered E doesn't want anyone to know he's the wealthy heir to a photo fortune? No wonder he shoots so much film.

CONDENSED VERSIONS

The ever accumulatory T. Sims has expanded his corporate quiver by adding new precision core and truck manufacturing capabilities. The Godfather reportedly also has several more top secret developments up his sleeve, each designed "to change the shape of the sport as we know it."

After mourning the loss of his illusionistic electroplated hood ornament, Cash McAnlis contacted this column. A reward is being offered for its return. McAnlis, also noting a future trend on one of his competitors ads, stated, "I'll meet or beat any deal on obsolete equipment." After OTW badgered Cash, we got him to reveal the logic behind this brash pronouncement: "You see we *never* made any obsolete equipment." McAnlis is presently nurturing his Jobba tree seedling and studying Spanish to communicate with his new third world skate team.

Brad Bowman is continuing his one man crusade against the "one trick wonders." Bowman vows to eradicate any and all fakers.

A three-stop Mid East & South Hester Series is possibly in the offing, with sites in Atlanta, Cherry Hill and Ohio. Point standings-wise, Micke Alba currently is way far out in front.



Funny Foto.

Newsbreak . . . Bobby Pierce is back into heavy training. He sleeps all day, goes surfing from dusk till dark, parties all night, skates in between and surfs from pre-dawn to light. He then repeats the cycle. No wonder he wins.

Viewed at Orange County International Raceway on Fox Hunt Night — An incognito world champion Mike Weed passing himself off as just another speed shifting inland type.

Could that have been Henry Hester in a suit acting as official verifier for Bobby Valdez's consecutive inverted aerial Guinness Book of World Records attempt at LA's KTLA TV studios? Or maybe it was former cowboy star Gene Autry, who just happens to own the station. Sarge would not even dare dress like that in Sweden.

Don Hoffman finally drained the new Upland Combipools. In true Badlands style, they have good shapes and surfaces, and gnarly maxi vert.

Bob Goodrich and the Midwest Skateboard Assoc. are doing some good things. If you get a chance, check out their Minnesota MSA newsletter.

Rod "Daddy-O" Saunders, the best paid, not-on-a-team, pro rider, due to his extraordinary business acumen, is devoting his attention to bringing back early 60's jargon. He reportedly plans to package 29 adhesive backed oldies phrases and market them through Sears-Roebuck Stores. If this enterprise is as successful as the time Rodriguez tried to pass himself off as the descendant of an Early Spanish Landgrant just to get a job as a real estate salesman, we'll probably never hear about it again.

Nine-year-old Travis De Armon, the latest pride of Texas, is blowing minds with his "Casper Disaster" freestyle trick. The degree of difficulty of this maneuver would make many an older pro freak, but Travis is pulling it off with increasing regularity.

Tracker's Dave Dominy has temporarily garaged his Ferrari due to his round-the-clock R & D of several new products. Insiders are ultra hush

about the projects, but everyone concerned is sure that they will be very influential.

Kansas City ragers Chris Cukar and David Cleary have hooked up with Pepsi Cola and are promo-ing out to full houses.

Tony Alva, Jim Goodrich, Mike McGill, Alan Gelfand, Tony Cook and the New Horizons, Steve Rocco and Tim Scroggs all went down, expenses paid, naturally, to Venezuela. The crowds were so enthusiastic over the good skating that the second anyone came close to blowing it, they would become increasingly violent. Once again, it proves you have to have your act together south of the border.

Our sometimes staff mechanic Gregg Ayres took his "perfect, after all I built it myself" car down south for a test drive. After blowing the racing MG's head gasket near Lance Smith's house, he sought assistance. Fortunately for Ayres, Lance wasn't home (you think the guy would help; he only rides balloon tire bicycles.) Ayres then hitched home, got some money, took the bus back down and hired a tow truck to carry the crippled car. A couple of days, a new head gasket and 300 dollars later, Ayres drove his prized car out of the garage and lost his differential, stopping the car entirely. He is now trying to trade it to Smith for a bicycle.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I don't have a small mind." — Dave MacIntyre

BUST OF THE MONTH

Which prominent Santa Barbara manufacturer was seen in Anna's restaurant with his shirt off, getting a massage from a Scandinavian man named Klaus?

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Which team manager decided to ship his team to an Illinois demo during the Boulder Bash, keeping 5 of his boys very dry in the H-series standings?

FOOLISH DEPT.

Well, finally Charles Graudins of Philadelphia, Pa., correctly identified Bert LaMar as our August Funny Foto subject. Prizes and congrats to Charles for his laudatory efforts. As for last month's deluge diving disaster, here's a hint: He's interviewed somewhere in a very recent issue. And for this month: He's South Bay's (L.A.) leading proponent of jet-age skating and he's spent time in front of and alongside the camera. Reminder, send your guess on picture postcards only for a chance at this month's special prize. ☺

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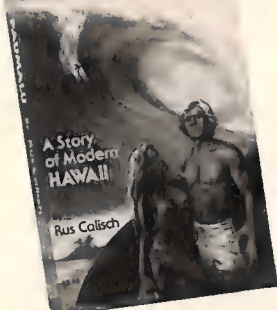
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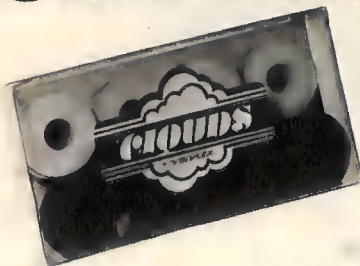
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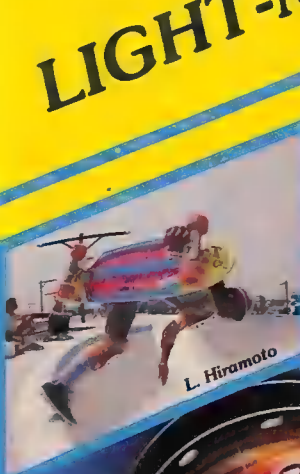
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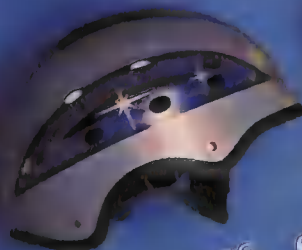


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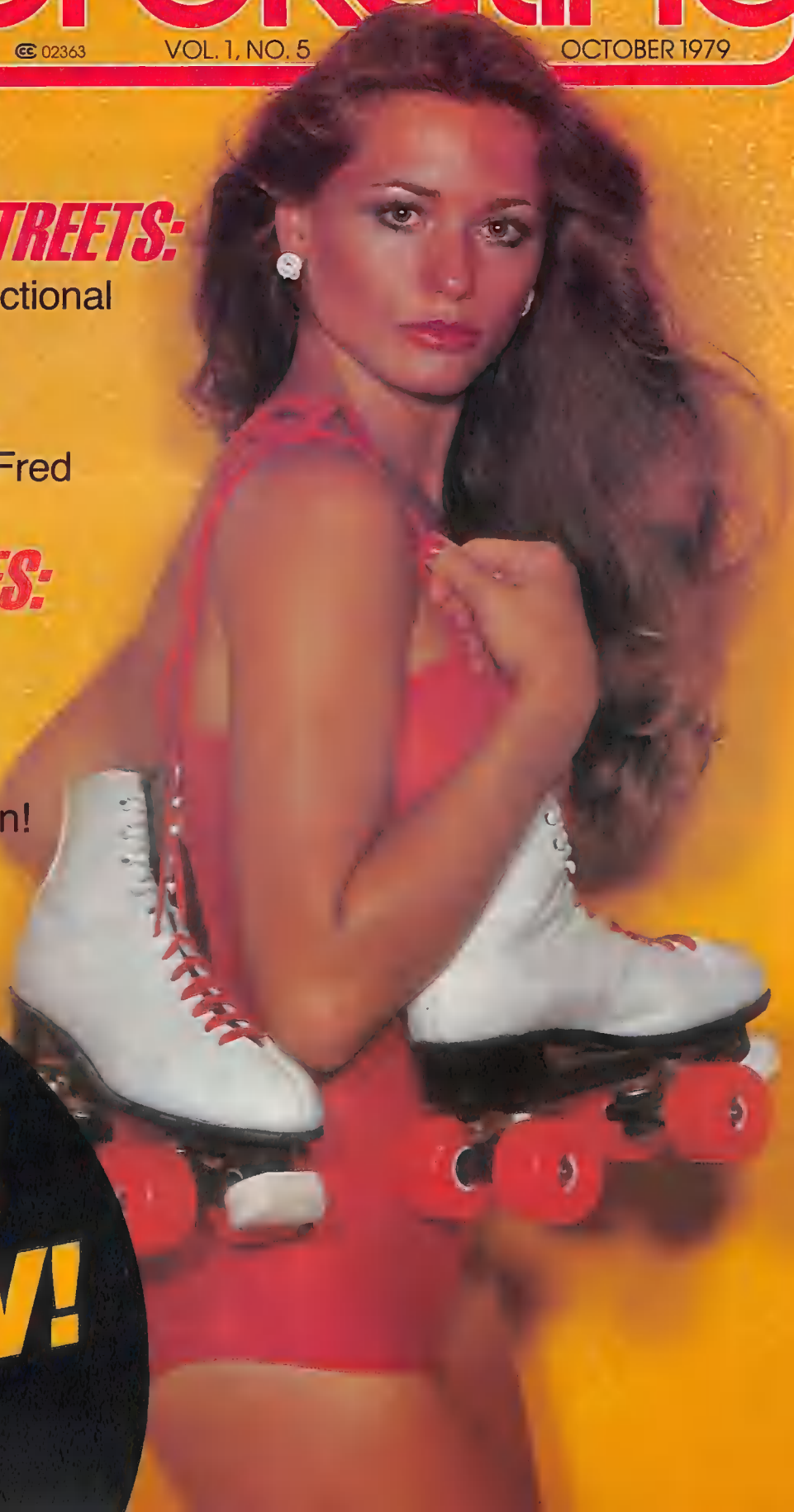
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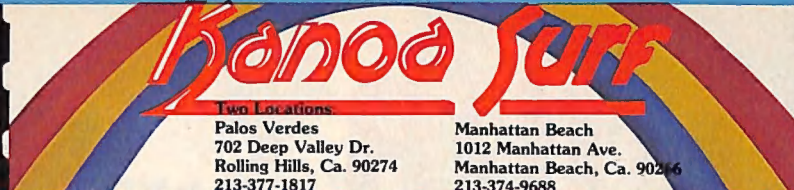
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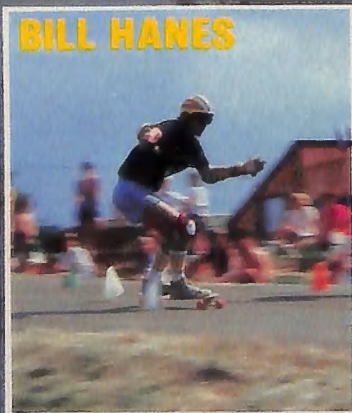
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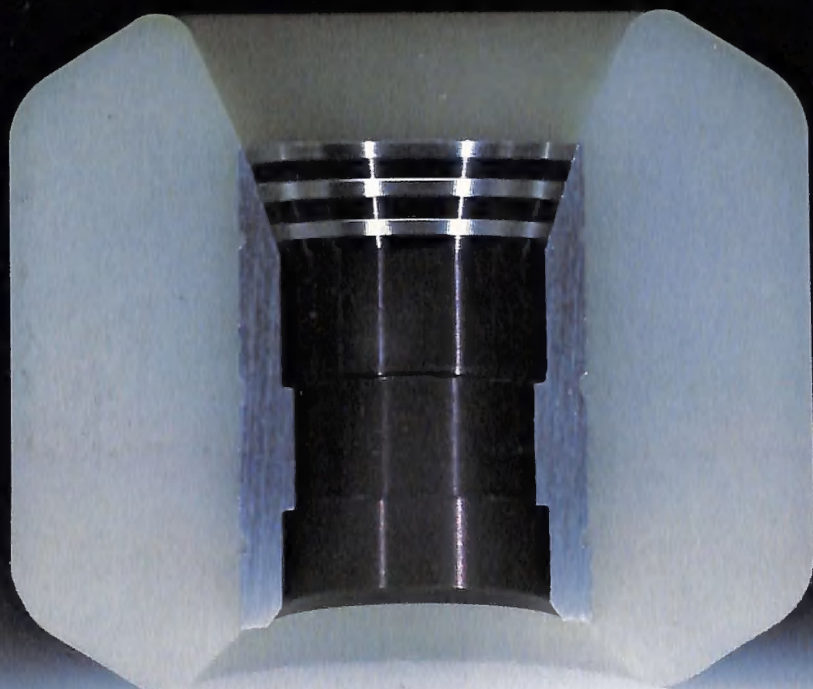
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